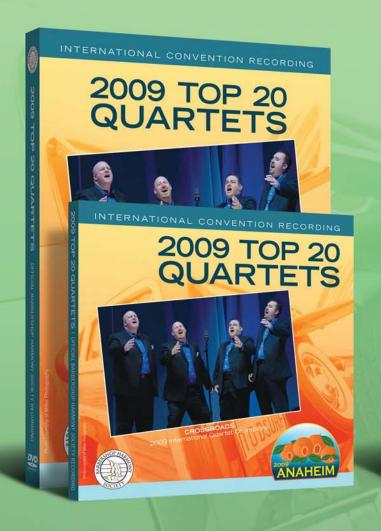
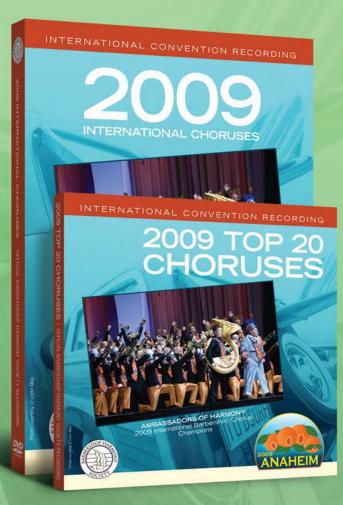


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TEMPO

Conan O'Brien exposes millions to barbershop. See what's new on www.barbershop.org

THE TAG

"I'd Give The World to be In My Hometown"

Bill Biffle, Society President • bbiffle@barbershop.org

Some scary things to think about—and how you can make a difference right now

nyone who's been around me the past several months knows that I pretty much have a single message as your president: "If we don't reverse our decades-old membership decline, the Barbershop Harmony Society will die!"

Strong words, but accurate. Over the past 25 years, we have lost almost a third of our membership. And this has driven our income down. Fewer members mean less dues collected, fewer registrations sold for conventions, and lower merchandise sales. And less income means smaller—and fewer—programs to help the barbershoppers we have. Less outreach, fewer member services, less help for chapters—all of which translate into still fewer members. That old navy pilot Ed Watson calls this a "death spiral." When you see him, ask him to demonstrate it for you. It's chilling.

Now that's scary. I know it is. It scares me. It scares your leaders all across our great Society. And, consequently, they are all actively working hard to discover the answers to the question, "What do we need to do to grow again?" And here's more good news—the point of this column—I can tell you right now how you can help. How you can make a real difference. How we—you and I—can help

solve this problem. Right now. For real.



One thing you can do right now to change our direction

You've probably heard of the Ambassadors of Song program. It's a program that lets every one of us participate in the solution to the membership decline. Clarke Caldwell, CEO of Harmony Foundation, calls it "the power of everyone." It's a way that all of us, by making small, regular contributions, can help fund more youth outreach, support new exciting programs to expose the men of North America to our hobby, and help create new ways we can help our chapters succeed. By pledging as little as \$10 per month (less than most of us spend each week on coffee drinks) we can begin the process of reversing this fatal trend—of stopping the death spiral in its tracks—once and for all. If 10,000 of us—that's fewer than half—did this, we'd generate at least \$1.2 million each year in support of our own survival. That's truly, "the power of everyone!"

Canadian member contributions to Harmony Foundation are also welcome, of course, but unfortunately are not tax deductible under Canadian law. Sing Canada Harmony contributions spread harmony among Canadian youth and are tax deductible. Contribute at www.singcanadaharmony.ca.

Will you do it? Will you do it now? Simply go to www. harmonyfoundation.org and click on "Ways to Give" at the top of the page. You can put these monthly donations on a credit card or have them automatically withdrawn from a checking account. It's painless, but it's powerful.

It's the power of everyone.

Do it *now*. Your grandchildren's grandchildren will bless your name. Thank you.

Less income means smaller and fewer-programs to help the barbershoppers we have. Less outreach, fewer member services, less help for chapters, all of which translate into still fewer members. I can tell you how you can help solve this problem right now.

bbiffle@barbershop.org

Success is an attitude--y*our* attitude!

appy fall. I'm writing this while convention season is still going. I hope you took advantage of your district's convention. I recently competed at the Dixie convention in Chattanooga. What a blast! The Music **City Chorus**, a subset of the **Nashville** chapter, won the privilege to represent the district in Philadelphia in 2010, where I wager we'll have more than the 57 members who competed at district. So let's talk about what makes a successful chapter/chorus experience.

Chapter/chorus success

Two quick points about the opening paragraph:

- Your chapter and your chorus are not the same. Choruses are a part of your chapter, but your chapter is more than just a chorus, or at least it should
- I referred to the successful chapter/chorus experience, which means it's subject to your perceptions. How you interpret what your chapter/ chorus does determines whether it is successful or not. So, as I said in my last column, it's up to you, you! Now, let's move on.

I've been in successful and in struggling chapters. Some were competitive and some

> weren't, some were big and some small, some were growing, some not. (Luckily, I haven't been in a shrinking chapter.) Neither competitiveness, size nor growth defined success in any of them. What did? The struggling chapters usually lacked unity of purpose—there was no goal setting, no planning. Many of our struggling chapters are the same: They just do what they've done until the chapter runs down or the members do. Or, they don't know what they're doing because they don't know what they're trying to do.



While staff was still in Kenosha. the Nashville chapter was setting goals. They were already upgrading their attitudes. their ambitions and their singing. They were ready to ensure we wanted to join the chapter.

My own chapter's success

Let's discuss the success my current chapter is *enjoying* and why. I deserve no credit—I hold no leadership nor influence in my chapter—I'm just trying not to mess up the choreography. Because my attitude helps determine whether it's fun for me, I do have say over my personal experience.

The Music City Chorus (www.musiccitychorus. org) last won a competition in 1977; since then it competed without winning, put on shows, performed at singouts and other people's shows, and generally got along to get along. No great failure, no great success. As soon as they learned headquarters was

moving here, something changed. A group of chapter members began setting goals to improve and position themselves to take advantage of every tool the Society had to offer. While staff was still in Kenosha, the chapter was working hard to really get its act together. They were already upgrading their attitude, their ambitions and their singing. By the time headquarters staff arrived, chapter members were ready to ensure we wanted to be part of the Nashville chapter and the Music City Chorus. (It's our hobby too!)

By the time I started attending, staff music specialist Mike O'Neill was already the new chorus director and was getting great support from former director Howard McAdory, now the Music and Performance VP. We have a website, learning tracks, music folders, section leaders, Groupanizer, riser crew, trailer, section rehearsals, and plans delivered in our Yahoo group mail each week by the music director and/or the music team. Confusing? Sure—but much less confusing than not knowing what's happening or where to go or who to ask. We even have choreography videos on the web to help lessen the physical coordination requirement.

I was impressed from the moment director emeritus Freeman Groat greeted me at the door. I hope each chapter has a stalwart like Freeman. He takes attendance, gets you a name badge, brings water and cookies, helps each visitor feel welcome, and gets you an orientation package—week one about the Society, week two about the chapter, and week three is about what you need to join.

Frustrating at times, but worth it

Is there ever frustration? Sure, Mike gets frustrated with those who won't learn their words, notes, or moves. He's frustrated with members who go home after break because he wants everyone to be as dedicated to excellence as he is. But for him there are rewards as well—when people show up "off the paper" and ready to sing, or when they come to a retreat and pour their hearts and souls into the music and into the camaraderie that is barbershop at its best. He gets a real reward when the chorus averages 84% (the same core group had moved from the 60s to the 70s not long before!), peaking on stage instead of in the warm-up room. Is he a perfect director? NO. But he wants to be, and that attitude is infectious.

Chorus members get frustrated at singing two measures and then stopping and singing them again—25 times a night. We come to sing and have fun, and much of what we end up doing on rehearsal night is hard work, sometimes tiring and taxing, but it also pays off. The reward must exceed the work, because the chorus members keep coming back with enthu-

STRAIGHT TALK



siasm, and the chapter is growing. Are we the best singers around? NO! (Sorry boys.) Do we work hard and take instruction from the music team? YES!

Not just a rehearsal: Fun and quartetting, too

Do we do nothing but rehearse? NO! We have fun each week—we have quartetting *each week*—with guests encouraged to join in and chapter quartets and often performances from chapter international semifinalist **Lunch Break**. Our last district contest had *five* chapter quartets, plus chapter members in two others. Did the quartets come in first? NO! Did they win? YES! The chapter has not forgotten that the Society is rooted in four guys singing together. And the strength of the chapter's quartet program is one of the biggest reasons the chapter's chorus is getting stronger.

So, that's what we do at chapter meetings—and I sometimes laugh out loud. The other day, the chapter

secretary declared he would no longer keep a separate roster because the *eBiz* roster worked so well. It tickled me that our chapter is so efficient and knows what's available to them from the Society.

To some extent, this is like saying "To be a millionaire is easy—first start with a million dollars." But in barbershop, it's even easier—just decide what you want to be and be it. As for the Music City Chorus of the Nashville Chapter of the Dixie district of the Barbershop Harmony Society, we want to be an Alevel chorus and all that we can be. So we're doing it!

To all Barbershop Harmony Society members, how am I doing?

ewatson@barbershop.org

LETTERS

harmonizer@barbershop.org

Contemplating the 33% criterion change

egarding "Changing keys: The up and up on modulation" (July/August issue, page 10). Key changes have been a frustration for my chorus for decades. Over the last four weeks, I have taken about 10 minutes each night and taught (and retaught) the key change. Last week we had wonderful success of being able to do about four iterations of the key change in a row with some good success. This process has gone a long way to demystifying the key change process and taking the fear our of the very words "this is a key change."

BOB PYPER Grimsby, Ont.

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed your article in the most recent Harmonizer about Dick Van Dyke and his quartet. It was delightful to read about his involvement in barbershop. He's always been a favorite of ours.

Prentice Barnett Denton, Texas

It is nice that Kevin Keller has made complete openness a "hallmark" of his tenure as Category Specialist.

When Burt Szabo was the Arrangement Category

Specialist in 1970, he called a two-week meeting attended by the best arrangers of the day, including Fred King, Fred Steinkamp, Jay Giallombardo, Dave Stevens, Earl Moon, Jack Baird, Val Hicks and Lou Perry. (Prior to that, many Arrangement judges had never written an arrangement and most could not transcribe what they heard.) The first week was for the purpose of codifying what a barbershop song truly was. Thirty five percent barbershop 7th chords, by actual count, was only one of more than 40 hallmarks they were able to identify. They became the basis for the Category Description.

I am always concerned when we do things that emasculate the already weakened parameters that enclose, define and set apart our art form. From more than 40 hallmarks that identified a barbershop song, we are now down to five or six. I have searched ardently to find an old C&J Manual—I would like to know what happened to the other 40 that we lost in 1993 or even find out what they were. Just as an example, a style once considered homophonic is now described as "primarily" homophonic.

When a "KIBber" raises an objection to a song that he considers non-stylistic being sung on the contest stage, he is challenged to show

cause. Usually, he is unable to articulate his objections



in musical terms. As a consequence, his arguments are often reduced to an exclamation that the song doesn't sound like barbershop to him—he "knows barbershop when he hears it!" That response unerringly results in demeaning remarks, insults and castigations—and that is before they really get started.

What the Music category judges are now proposing, reminiscent of Catch 22, is that they know it's barbershop because it sounds like barbershop (intuitively). I would agree that no one in his right mind could count 7th chords while attempting to adjudicate all the other elements of a performance. I would venture even further that no one does so now. So, why not step back a bit, agree not to count chords and leave the category definition as it is—as a benchmark/hallmark/standard. In that regard, you might not "cause undue alarm."

> JOHN "MONTANA JACK" FITZPATRICK Stevensville, Mont.

I think this is a good move for the style, because it is true that some arrangements were unnaturally changed to include barbershop 7ths where they shouldn't have been. I agree that this fortifies the importance of the barbershop 7th, and I think will better aid in weeding out non-barbershop songs than the 33% rule. Ooh-rah for C&J improvement.

IASON DYER Cameron Park, Calif.

Whether the 33% or 35% of 7ths is a rule or not, the more sugar in the coffee the sweeter it gets. Why not start a new Society? Instead of SPEBSQSA or BHS, why not S.T.A.G. (Simply Told Anything Goes). The camel's nose is already in the tent; why not the rest? How much camel will they let in the tent to preserve the smell of the tent and not that of the camel? I like the songs "Aquarius" or "Greensleeves." I really don't consider them vehicles for Barbershop. But who knows, they may be riding on the back of the camel.

> ROBERT LEE Lyman, S.C.

"Preserving an art form" is a statement that could indeed be considered a contradiction, but these differing views both have validity. My biggest

concern lay in entrenched extremes who believe what they want to believe based on personal sentiment. The reinforcement of the hallmarks of the style addresses the fears and concerns some have regarding "progression." Therefore, I like what is being proposed.

If the answer to "what is barbershop?" can only be defined by the uber-educated, in hyper-technical terminology that few even understand, and unduly limits songs, then I contend that the result is isolating the style into oblivion. If "what we are trying to preserve" is water – then barbershop is like a lake. If the same water is preserved with no exchange of new and old, it will become a stagnant pool that will cease to support life and eventually evaporate.

> Roger Motzkus West Valley City, Utah

If we are to survive as an organization, we have got to sing songs that are recognized by more people, meaning we must become more modern. We cannot continue to sing songs mostly of the '30s and '40s as most of the people of that area are gone. Having the 33% rule eliminates many if not most of the songs of recent times, i.e. the '70s, '80s, and even the present. Practically every arrangement of any song will have some "barbershop 7th" chords. Let us just do away with any requirement and ... survive!

> JOHN CELANI Moorestown, N.J.

The Supreme Court's landmark 1973

ruling on obscenity basically said, "It's too restricting to objectively define obscenity, but we will know it when we see it. Let the individual communities establish their own standards." Thirty-six years later, nearly every home in America is inundated with (soft) porn. The proposed elimination of 33% 7th Chord criterion is essentially the same elimination of objective standards, which will lead to unintended consequences as well.

If no one can count

7th accurately in real time, that doesn't mean we should throw out the standard. That standard is in the rules to help arrangers and performers understand and appreciate that barbershop means something other than four-part a cappella music.

It is human nature, particularly among 'artistic types,' to push the rules as far as possible. That's great. But if you keep liberalizing the rules to an undefined standard, we will not recognize our craft and barbershop will cease to be barbershop. This change is well-intentioned, but the unintended consequences will be huge and not worth the risk.

If our current system is able to accommodate the music that is currently being sung, doesn't that say a lot? The current system works and should not be changed.

> JOHN LOUCKS Magnolia, Texas

An assumption that the circle of 5ths requirement will naturally lead to the use of barbershop 7ths is not necessarily true. For example, there are many '50s and '60s tunes that have frequent circleof-5ths progressions without many instances of barbershop 7ths. For example, "Sh-Boom" by the Crew Cuts, or "Heart and Soul" as sung in *Forever Plaid* both use circle-of-fifths progressions but use minor chords instead of barbershop 7ths. If keeping 7ths is a priority, then something needs to be added to the Music Category Description to address that.

KEITH RICHMOND Langley, B.C.



September/October 2009 Volume LXIX Number 5

Complete contact info: pages 58-59

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Conan O'Brien exposes millions to barbershop

ilarious or raunchy? Tasteful or tactless? Opinions from barbershoppers covered the spectrum after millions of regular Tonight Show viewers spent almost six minutes with Conan at the Society's convention in Anaheim. (Probably for copyright reasons, they didn't broadcast snippets from the contest stage.)

> As is Conan's pattern, the butt of every joke was either the group he visited (us), or more often, himself. He is the only one warbling while Conan with Society marketing wearing a straw hat and handlebar mustache, and he played up the stark contrast be-

tween his attire and singing, and the thousands of men who come from all over the world to compete with class, harmony and humor.

past Director of Marketing Todd Wilson summed

up what we got with our exposure:

During this 5:51 minute segment. 2.5 million viewers (many within the 18-49 adult demo) learned:

- there's a big organization called the Barbershop Harmony Society (mentioned no fewer than three times), whose mission is to enrich lives through singing, and it's not just for old farts
- barbershop quartets are still around
- the international convention is attended by people from around the world

(including children)

- · the Society has its own gift shop of barbershop/music memorabilia and accessories
- · "if Conan can sing a tag, maybe I can too"
- This segment

was the time equivalent of ten 30-second spots, which cost about \$50,000 each if we had been asked to buy the time, but it was FREE!

See and comment on the clip at www.barbershophq.com/?p=1148.



Whether or not you enjoyed Conan's jokes,

American Harmony wins Best Documentary—get it shown in your town!

& PR coordinator Danielle Cole,

who helped coordinate Conan's

visit. Right: In the Marketplace

with Dick Van Dyke.

At the San Diego Film Festival on September 26, American Harmony, the documentary film about our beloved

hobby, took home the award for Best Documentary Film!

The movie has also been nominated by the Independent Docu-

mentary Association for an Alan Ett Award, for "Best Musical Documentary of the Year," and has received numerous awards and accolades including:

the Audience Award, Runner-up Feature Documentary, Sedona Film Festival; Winner, Golden Ace Award,

> Las Vegas Film Festival; and Winner, Silver Lei Award, Honolulu Film Festival. American Harmony continues to receive much critical acclaim, including a recent

glowing review in Variety. (http://tinvurl.com/ahvariety)

With the initial theatrical release underway in a number of markets (and more still to come), the distributor intends to focus the next phase of the release on trying to share the film with as many non-barbershoppers as possible. With core chapter support, the hope is to enable local chapters to invite nonbarbershoppers to watch the film for free as a way of promoting your chorus, target future members, and shine a spotlight on barbershop harmony.

Go to www.americanharmonythemovie.com/myharmony to demand that the film be shown in your community.

Frank Santarelli, longest-tenured employee, retires after 32 years



On Oct. 1, the Barbershop Harmony Society staff said their final goodbyes to one of their best-known, most dedicated employees. Aside from working indirectly for the president, treasurer, the board of directors, and countless

committees, Frank Santarelli has been the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and staff director to a long succession of Executive Directors and CEOs since March, 1977, going way back to Barrie Best, Hugh Ingraham, Joe Liles, Darryl Flinn, Don Harris, Roger Lewis and now Ed Watson. Of course, each of these leaders had his own way of doing things, but the main thing they have in common is calling on Frank's expertise and long experience to help them find their footing.

As a director, Frank had not only the financial end of things to care for, but also managed all staff personnel and human resources. Frank directly supervised scores of employees in the print shop, Harmony Marketplace and the data processing department. Most are not aware of the extent to which Frank took on additional projects, such as the redesign and rebuilding of Harmony Hall West in Kenosha; investigating and outsourcing the print shop; and investigating, acquiring and installing a new data processing system and phone system, among other crucial undertakings.

Though he was usually "in the zone" when it came to his job, Frank was still quick to laugh and always up for a fun-filled adventure. During previous staff holiday parties, Frank dressed up as Santa

Claus (because his name begins with "Santa") and distributed gag gifts he personally purchased. Frank also occasionally took a few staff members along to sail the rough seas of beautiful Lake Michigan.

As we bid Frank goodbye, we were privileged to have come across our new CFO, Heather Verble, who joined the staff and who has been at HQ for a few months, shadowing Frank, learning the ins and outs. She's now officially your new financial contact, available at hverble@ barbershop.org or (800) 876-7464 x4133.

Society briefs

The Harmonizer available for marketing & PR—cheap!

Back issues of *The Harmonizer* make great recruiting tools—leave them in dentist offices with a business card attached, give them to potential members or local media. Chapters can order for PR and recruiting only:

- Pre-order future copies in advance = \$.50/ea. + ship-
- Order back issues (we choose which ones) = cost of shipping only
- Order a surplus of back issues (you choose which) = \$1.00/ea + shipping, depending on supply on hand Place orders with Marketing & PR Coordinator Danielle Cole at dcole@barbershop.org.

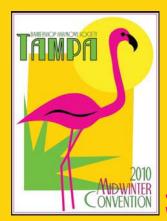
\$1 for 100% legal contest recordings. Hear the world's best quartets and choruses battle it out at the 2009 International Contest—every international contest song recorded since 1993 is now for purchase at nakedvoicerecords.com.

Congrats to Harmony, Inc. on 50 years! One of our oldest and dearest sister organizations has more than 2,000 barbershoppers in 80 chapters across the United States and Canada. Harmony, Inc. will be celebrating its anniversary throughout the year. For more info, see www.HarmonyInc. org or call 888-871-7762.

New Society Board committee appointments for 2010:

- Joe Berger, Nominating Committee
- Steve Delehanty, CEO Evaluation Committee, Compensation & Benefits Committee
- Keith Hopkins and Todd Wilson, Honorary Membership Committee

New Senior dues structure begins Jan. 1, 2010. All seniors who do or will qualify for the Senior membership rate before Jan. 1 (at least 70 years old and 10 years of Society membership) will continue to pay 50% of regular Society dues. Those who qualify after Jan. 1, 2010 will pay the new rate of 75% of regular Society dues.



Swim All Day, Sing All Night



www.barbershop.org/midwinter





What's new at the new www.barbershop.org

Document Center

Need help planning a chapter event? Have a copyright question? For these items and much more, check out all the tools at the Document Center.

Entire Music Leadership Team Manual now Available! Learn how to structure a successful music team, ideas on planning for musical growth, ideas for new member orientation, various chapter and quartet activity suggestions, and much more. Click on "Lead the Chapter" in the "Education" section, or go to http://tinyurl.com/leadchap.

The new 2009-2010 Chapter Secretary and Chapter **Treasurer Manuals** are now available at the "Chapter Business" link under the "Business and Finance" section, or go to http://tinyurl.com/chapbiz.

Elsewhere ...

Entering a quartet contest now easier than ever!

Registering your quartet and clearing music have been made easier with new step-by-step online CJ-20 instructions, thanks to the Education Department. Click on "Is My Arrangement Contestable?" under the "Competitions" tab at www.barbershop. org or go to http://tinyurl.com/arrcontest. At that link, you'll see that the Music category has assembled a team of Music judges, lead by Don Gray, who will address any questions you may have about the contestability of any arrangement.



Visit the Latest News section on the main page.

Read up on the inspirational story of Ken Strong, member of the **Show-Me Showboaters** who has been blind since birth, how he got started in barbershop, and his unique ways of keeping up with other guys in his chapter! Also, Terry Ludwig, member of the Sound of Illinois Chorus, shares the story of his vocal struggle throughout the years, but manages to come out on top in a major way!



Join the discussion at barbershopHQ.com

Success in using social networking tools. Members share success stories in using Facebook and other social networking sites to attract new members and fans.

Orders for victory! "If our chapters do nothing else, they must ____?"

One of the most important questions we can ask: What does each chapter need to really focus on right now?

Commander's Intent part 2. Followup on what Society staff has done and will do with the information. Why great chapters and great football teams are strong on the fundamentals.

33 percent criterion: A dialog between Montana Jack and Kevin Keller.

An enlightening discussion between one of the Harmonet's most articulate proponents of traditional barbershop and the Music Category Specialist, with insightful comments as well.

Barbershop Featured on NBC's The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien.

Barbershoppers' verbal love notes and grenades following his Anaheim segment.

What new barbershop.org and Ebiz

features do vou want? Members envision what the next wave of features and tools should provide.

Pep talks? PSHAW! Better than 85% percent chance of sunnier days ahead. Why we're going to break out of our cycle of decline and start growing again.

What most online discussions are missing, by default. A tongue-incheek speculation on how barbershop debates would be clearer if our brains' defaults settings were displayed whenever we spoke.

Three great new song books available

The Harmony Marketplace now offers three new barbershop song books published by Hal Leonard, which are marketed to music educators and the general public through non-Society channels. Each is \$14.99 (includes CD) through Harmony Marketplace, www. harmonymarketplace.com or 800-876-7464. For a sneak peek, go to the Hal Leonard website at http://tinvurl. com/yfzlrb7.

Favorite Songs Songbook (203025, pre-order: available December 2009). Coney Island Baby/ We All Fall; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands; Hey, Little Baby O' Mine; In the Good Old Summertime/ Take Me Out To The Ballgame; The Star Spangled Banner; This Little Light of Mine with Do Lord; Water Is Wide





Rock in Harmony Songbook (203024). The Banana Boat Song; Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight

(Goodnight, It's Time To Go); Happy Together; Hello Mary Lou; In My

Room; The Longest Time: Silhouettes: Under The Boardwalk

Barbershop Fun Songbook (203023) Do You Hear The People Sing; Feliz Navidad; Give Me A Barbershop Song; Good Night Ladies; Harmony Leads The Way; Honey/Little Lize' Medley; Sound Celebration; You'll Never Walk Alone



2009-B issue of the Music Premiere series now avail-

able. The full package of six songs costs \$14.99 and includes a full demo CD. Individual songs are \$1.65 per copy for members, \$2.20 for non-members, individual learning CDs (full part-predominant tracks) are \$12 per song.

202796* Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair (Waesche)

202792* Happy Days and Lonely Nights (Moon)

202793* All Dressed Up with a Broken Heart (Gentry)

202794 Alleluia (Henry/Wright) 202796* That's Life (Society)

202797 Beach Boys Medley (Delehanty)

(* = suitable for contest)

To see a list of previous Premiere packages by year, visit http://tinyurl. com/MPsongs. Order at www.harmonymarketplace.com or 800-876-

Needed: New Music Specialist in Nashville

The Music Publications Editor and Education Specialist will help the Education department plan an execute a variety of Society music and education programs.

Required qualifications: Membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society; Bachelors in Music or Education; experience as a music educator and in curriculum development and implementation; strong background in music theory; proficient in using Finale, excellent computer, writing and teaching skills; desire and ability to travel frequently.

Desired qualifications: Excellent barbershop arranging skills; proven success as a director of a barbershop chorus; experience in providing music activities for youth, design and authoring of computer based training, and as a quartet and chorus coach.

Responsibilities: Edit Society music publications; assess unpublished barbershop arrangements for entry into the Society Music Library; assist in curriculum development and implementation for Society education programs and with the planning and administration of the Society's annual Harmony University; develop and conduct music activities for youth and music educators and quartet and chorus development workshops; travel to various districts and affiliate countries to facilitate the Society's mission statement; maintain Music Educator sections of the Society website; and other duties as assigned by the Director of

Send resumes to Director of Education Paul Wietlisbach to pwietlisbach@barbershop.org or to 110 7th Ave N, Nashville, TN 37203. Please submit all materials in electronic form and by Dec. 15, 2009.



CONVENTIONS

June 27–July 4 **2011**

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July 1-8 2013

Toronto June 30–July 7 2014

2015 June 28–July 5 2016

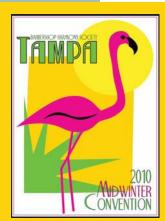
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2011

HARMONY UNIVERSITY 2010 St. Joseph, Mo. August 1-8, 2010



Midwinter: Your Great Escape from



JANUARY 26-31. 2010 www.barbershop.org/midwinter



Spread joy among deployed soldiers' loved-ones

ike most Society chapters, the Commodore Chorus of Norfolk, Va., is always looking for new ways to market our product, especially when it comes to Singing Valentines. The standard marketing concepts (newspaper, radio and TV) were productive but we really wanted a boost in sales.

In 2009, we nearly doubled our previous year's total by reaching a most appreciative audience—deployed military. Less than two weeks before our 2009 campaign, our VP for Marketing, a retired Navy chief petty officer still associated with the Navy community, e-mailed the command master chief onboard the deployed USS Theodore Roosevelt to offer our Singing Valentine service to their crew members.

After a few e-mails, we had the concurrence from the ship's chain of command.

The next series of e-mails with the ship involved getting an on-board coordinator, providing a spreadsheet to place orders on and determining a method



SOUNDS OF ALOHA members Dan Tom. John Char, Larry Paterson, Hiroshi Yuki serenade Jaclyn Monnig, one of 15 Honolulu wives who also received handwritten notes from their deployed husbands.

> of payment. We set a deadline to have the spread-

sheet back to plan the deliveries. The crew was very responsive considering how late we were in starting

this process and coordination went fairly smoothly. Once the deliveries started, it was actually amazing how smooth it all went for our first try at this venture. There were a few changes in delivery times and locations but, we had some very quick and positive feedback from both the recipients and the sailors.

How to help deployed soldiers know you are available

We are lucky enough to have a large military base nearby, but a wide variety of communities who don't have that resource still have significant numbers of deployed reserve personnel. In either case, the process is the same.

Start sooner than later. The commands have traditionally arranged deals for Feb. 14 bouquet deliveries, so you want Singing Valentines to be an option on the table before arrangements



Jack Klotzbach President Norfolk, Va. Chapter iackklotzbach@ gmail.com



Gene Hannan Marketing VP, Norfolk, Va. Chapter Gene.Hannan@ nmci-isf.com

Tips for a successful overall S.V. program

Set up a PayPal account for the chorus (it's free) and provide an online order form. Our customers go to our website to fill out an order form and are given the option to pay by credit card through PayPal (no customer account required) or with their own PayPal account. The small fee for each transaction is cheaper than going through a credit card processing service, and the convenience is worth it. Notification of payment is also sent from PayPal to the coordinator if desired.

Set up a Valentine's Headquarters to coordinate the day's activities. We usually have several call-ins from an early morning radio promo and from requests while the quartet is providing pre-planned delivery. A stationary coordinator can provide assistance with missed visits (rescheduling), adding new time slots deliveries, delivery shuffles and other issues so the quartets can stay focused on their schedules.

Coordinate with local Sweet Adeline or Harmony, Inc. chapters. Share any orders requesting a women's quartet, and they are often able to handle overflow deliveries if there is a timing issue.

Plan ahead! Predetermine quartet availability, plan time slots for deliveries and designate delivery areas to quartets. You'll be glad you did!

Register your chapter at www.singingvalentines.com

are made. Coordination should take place no later than early January, if not earlier, to ensure enough time is given to get orders and work out any communication issues.

Find a military liaison. The best person to coordinate the military side of the process would be the senior enlisted person of the deployed unit, or the person who coordinates with the deployed unit. The government pages of the local phone book will be a big help in locating the military person or people most likely to have responsibility or influence regarding vour proposal.

Send a flyer or letter of intent. Do it via email to ensure it's easy to copy and forward up the chain of command. Be sure to provide all details of the delivery process, costs (maybe even discount the price) and information needed to complete the delivery.

If possible, find a sponsor. During our process, we discovered that a San Diego chapter also provides their services to the loved ones of deployed units, but they are lucky enough to get a sponsor to cover the costs for the military. They only have to coordinate the information transfer.

Make group-wide ordering and payment as easy as possible. We provided a spreadsheet, titled with all the information we needed to carry out successful deliveries, which the personnel on the other side filled in and sent back. Not all deployed units have a method for individual communication, so monies were collected at their end and a single payment was provided to us after we coordinated a total price.

Collect the right information. Two important pieces of information are critical for success:

- Get the full name of the military person. Rank or paygrade will not be helpful if providing cards or verifying local information.
- Get as much detail as possible about the Valentine's recipient. Those ordering are deployed and may lack details about the recipi-

ents' current schedules or work addresses. Last minute coordination with deployed personnel may be impossible—you'll often need to make last-minute arrangements with the recipient. Be sure those ordering provide the recipients'

contact numbers along with other vital information.

If you have a military unit nearby with deployed personnel, give this a try. They are very appreciative and their loved ones are truly touched.





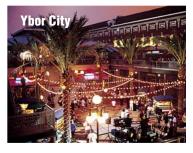
Tampa is a great convention and tourist city—see for yourself!

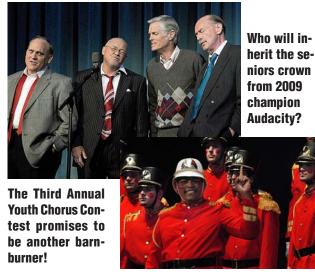
Make a vacation out of it! Sure we all love the contests and shows, but if you're in Tampa, you might as well explore what this great city has to offer:

- Busch Gardens
- Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo
- Tampa's Historic annual Gasparilla Pirate Festival
- The Florida Aquarium
- Multiple Beaches
- Ybor City & Historic District
- Tampa Museum of Art
- Tampa Bay History Center
- Walt Disney World® theme park (Orlan-

These attractions mixed with warm January weather is bound to be the perfect recipe for a successful vacation!







Incredible contests!

Two exciting contests that will alone make your trip well worth it!

Friday, **Jan. 29.** Attend classes and seminars from some of the most knowledgeable barbershoppers around and watch the best seniors quartets in the world as they vie for the coveted gold medal!

Saturday, Jan. 30. The future of our society is in the spotlight for the 3rd Annual International Youth Chorus Festival. This is always a must-see event! Plus, more useful classes and seminars!

Spending time with friends—old & new

The Midwinter Convention schedule always provides a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and catch-up with friends. Make new contacts and friends in the barbershop community and hobnob with the medalist quartets!



Singing!

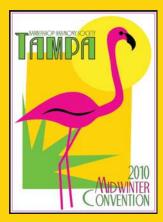
It is your convention! Experience singing with fellow barbershoppers from all over the world! Spend time woodshedding in the AHSOW room, sing tags until the wee hours of the morning and ring a chord with your barbershop heroes!

Jaw-dropping shows

Enjoy full show sets from all of our current international medalist guartets and other top groups. Appearing on the evening shows: Ringmasters (2009 4th place medalists), State Line Grocery (2009 4th place medalists), **The Vagrants** (2009 Collegiate Quartet Champs), Toast of Tampa (Medalist - Sweet Adelines Chorus), Audacity (2009 Seniors Champs), Crossroads (current International Quartet Champion), Old School (current 2nd place medalist), Storm Front (current 3rd place medalist), a medalist chorus, AISQC Quartets & Chorus, the 2010 Youth Chorus Festival and newly crowned Seniors Quartet Champion, and a surprise grand finale! ... and afterglows!













Q: What is Singing For Life?

A: A community service project and PR opportunity where your chapter provides entertainment and promotion on a day during the month of May (your choice) to support a blood drive by your local blood collection agency. May is a month with typically low donor turnout but high demand. You and other local groups sing for donors, which makes your blood drive stand out from all others in terms of media opportunities and local profile.

Q: What results have we seen from our two Singing For Life projects?

A: More than 4,500 units of blood collected—13,000 lives potentially saved—plus new relationships with other local performing arts organizations. SFL media coverage that have often exceeded chapter Singing Valentines activities.

Q: Who promotes this event?

A: Your chapter promotes its drive locally through chapter members, the local or regional blood collection agency, local media outlets, and the venue hosting the event. Your event partners will be asking your community to come to the blood center, local mall, civic center or other predetermined venue where the

drive will take place. This is our gift to say thank you for their gift of life.

Q: Will this help us build awareness for barbershop in vour community?

A: Yes. This is an opportunity to showcase your chapter and what your chapter does in your community. Your chapter should take this opportunity to build relationships by networking with other community groups including choirs, bands, schools and churches. The

possibilities are unlimited.

Q: What are some other benefits of this project?

A: Good will. You've helped save lives! Every unit of blood can save up to four patients: a newborn baby, a burn victim, a car accident survivor, a cancer patient, etc.

Pride. Barbershoppers across North America can feel proud of their efforts.

Media exposure. Because of the nature and size of this event, you will help achieve media exposure that our Society could never afford to pay otherwise. Your Chapter and the Barbershop Harmony Society name will be front and center in your community.

New members. Public awareness can lead to more members.

Q: How can my chapter get started?

A: Visit www.barbershop.org/blood. Encourage your chapter president to appoint a project chairman in your chapter very soon. Convince your chapter leader-

> ship that this project is an incredible opportunity to foster goodwill and community spirit. The deadline to register your chapter is January 31, but do it earlier to make sure it gets on the blood collection agency's calendar.

Q: What else is expected of my chapter?

A: Register. This must be done before anything else at www.barbershop.org/blood. Your chapter president and/or secretary will also receive instructions.

Volunteer. There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities, such as helping with the organization of the blood drive, the logistics, the recruitment, etc. Your chapter should invite other performing arts organizations like community churches, local schools and any other choral group that wish to serve with you.

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International Champions

Instead of dusting off those old vinyl LPs, or perhaps to hear our Society's most famous quartets for the first time, this collection is a *must* for the serious barbershop collector as well as the

brand new member...and at a discount, too. Makes a wonderful gift.

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1 CD each: '96 Nightlife; 1 CD each: '92 Keep '71 Gentlemen's Agreement; '65 Four Renegades

73 Dealer's Choice; '80 Boston Common;

'61 Suntones

Volume I *or* II 4-CD set: \$50 +\$2.50

Volumes I *and* II 8-CD set: \$80 + \$4.60

Additional Masterworks CDs \$10 +\$0.75

For additional AIC info, see our website. www.aicgold.com



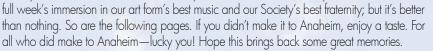


"I WAS THERE!"

The Ambassadors of Harmony repeated this phrase again and again as "Seventy-Six Trombones" climax built on climax, until finally the last chord rang out. Living rooms filled with Webcast partiers shared this moment on big screens, and they'll replay the DVD in years to come. But nobody who leaped up from his sofa experienced a sliver of the pandemonium that erupted in the Honda Center following the best barbershop chorus performance in history—jubilation that continued long into the night. I know because I was there.

Thirty minutes after the Ambassadors learned they had won, I still couldn't push through the jubilant throng to shake Jim Henry's hand. Still on an all-Friday buzz, sleep would be impossible for hours. So I found some brand-new barbershop friends (extremely easy to find at an international convention) to track down my first In-N-Out burger. At 2 a.m., I had to force myself to stop tagging and leave the still-crowded hotel lobby.

No use pretending there are words for any of what we experienced in Anaheim. The Harmony Foundation Show finale couldn't help but make you weak in the knees—words and pictures never could. Nobody believes that the Webcast or a convention DVD is a close facsimile to a





Big party day kicking of the big party week

Before you arrived. The local committee, board members, judges, committee members and staff showed up far in advance to do the vital work of running the convention and the Society itself. Our gratitude is far greater than the space allotted,

It's Disney every year

Hundreds of barbershoppers showed up for Barbershop Day at Disneyland, but with all due respect to the Magic Kingdom, the folks hanging out at the headquarters hotel may have been having as much fun. Tuesdays are part family reunion—except with "convention friends" and without the awkward family baggage—and part backstage pass with the rock stars.

You'll be registering or shopping and realize that you've spent the last minute talking to the guy who arranged that incredible ballad that won your quartet a district medal in '02. After you sing a tag, you start noticing the name tags of some of the people around you—the rock stars of this art form everywhere you turn. If you pay really close attention, like Matthew Trusner (above right, a 7-year member from the **Bloomington, Ill**. chapter), you collect autographs as well. He added 25 from the champs this year, now just 70 shy of the 195 living AIC members.

One of the big highlights every year is the Larry Ajer Show, a charity benefit sponsored by the Salem Senateaires since some time like the Coolidge administration. It's a casual show where many of the big choruses and quartets show off their best (mostly) non-contest stuff to drum up new fans for later in the week. Elsewhere, we big-name barbershoppers who are also great instrumentalists forming a great Dixieland band.

You fail to save up sleep for following nights, but can't berate yourself too much because you fell asleep smiling.



Dixieland Bo



the Dans, who have kept quality barbershop in the public eye better and longer than any other group. Honorary lifetime membership was the least we could do—we've always been honored to have them representing barbershop harmony to the world.

Quartet Quarterfinals





I might even miss the bus lines in Philly somehow, I always end up standing and riding with the most interesting people.













Most original. Nobody in Anaheim looked, sounded or moved like 'Round Midnight, whose strong ple), they strongly stood out from the pack and brought ideas to the seen in a barbershop setting



Back in a big way. So maybe I was a little hard on my rotund comic heroes last year when I chided Hot Air Buffoons for recycling old material. (It's cuz I love you

All I can say is poor horse, lucky us. They broke it with their girth and then they shot it, an act AIC Medallion a contest stage since the Most Happy Fellows actually killed a guy. This set made me a life-long fan of HAB.'

"Hey! Stop being polite!"

These were my thoughts at 11:44 Wednesday morning, after watching Crunch Time, the second quartet of the week, get poliite applause. Remember that group at your last district convention that rang the snot out of everything and earned all the standing Os? They didn't qualify for Anaheim. By any sane standard, Crunch Time had hit "Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey" out of the park. So what if that's worth 25th place in this elite company? 25th place in *district* deserves wild hollering at minimum.

It's not always like this. Did **Realtime**'s extended mic test ruin the grading curve? Was the crowd in Rush Street's staged funk? Hung over from too much Disney?

I should have had more faith. The mood steadily grew until "polite" meant waiting to stand and cheer until after a ballad was over. The most jaded music snob never stands a chance after truly inhaling the air at barbershop harmony's World

Cup. The more you hear, the more you want, and instead of it all running together, the music becomes more exquisite as the week progresses. Harmony Nirvana was settling in, group by group. It always does.

Ironic lack of irony. Bravo! smiled as they accused judges of expecting less and scoring less when Senecaland District groups compete. Nobody knows whether the judges smiled back as they awarded the district's chorus rep the contest's lowest score—and 44th place to Bravo!

Number of quartets with an 80%-plus scoring average in quarterfinals (2004: 14)

Songs Fraser Brown (Audacity, far right) has performed on the international avartet stage since 1977 (counting mic tests), including an uninterrupted 27-year run

Intact past or current collegiate quartets in quarterfinals—plus two **intact Seniors champs**

Show off. Already an elite arranger and getting famous for directing and coaching, who gave 65 South's Aaron Dale (pointing) the right to sing such great lead? Who does he think he is, Mark Hale? (Answer: No, but he's Mark's favorite protégé.)



Quartet Quarterfinals







There are two kinds of quartets: Those who would groan if they drew the slot after the presumed favorite, and those who would laugh with a mischievous glint in their eyes. Everyone had wicked fun while Lunch Break dressed down the eventual champs and every competing man who already owned an AIC jacket.



Best lead. Paul Saca of **On Demand** (second from left). Well, that'll start an argument—would "best lead without an international medal" go over any better? That should do for now. A guy with his powerful, expressive pipes won't keep that status forever.

80% frustrated. Five to 10 years ago, such high-quality sets came from quartets jockeying for the finals. This year, an 80+ score didn't even get these groups a semifinals slot. A deepening field: Big annoyance to **Lucky Day, On Demand, X-Factor, Genesis** and **Crunch Time**—big win for barbershop lovers!

Shot heard 'round the world. Anaheim's Swedish invasion officially began with **Ringmasters**' highly modified tag for "Love Me and the World is Mine." The last quartets to bring crowds to their feet with such stratospheric notes were **Vocal Spectrum** and **Four Voices**—you know, just a couple of buzz-heavy collegiate champs who kept improving until they won international gold.

It ain't over 'till it's over. It was late and all the big quartets were long done when **The Party** finished out the quarterfinals. They predicted the audience would be sparse and came ready. Their "You Don't Know Us" parody was a screamingly funny, spot-on shot at all the folks who ducked out early. Next time, stick around!





each his own—but quartetting OCD sufferer Dan Jordan (in black) competed with **Hi-Fidelity** in Anaheim *and* sang lead elsewhere with three other quartets: **The New Tradition**, **The Perfect Gentlemen**, and **The Dapper Dans**. We love you, Dan—it's okay to put down the pitch pipe once in a while.



The party Quariet Con





50. Latest Edition (BinG!)Markus Krafczinski (T), Robert Blank (L), Thomas Kunze (Bs), Steve Hepner (Ba)
Contact Steve: *SLHx5@compuserve.com*



49. Alliance (AAMBS)
Ian Mulholland (T), Adrian Gimpel (L), Dan Millgate (Bs), Richard Reeve (Ba)
Contact Ian: ian@chellingtons.com.au; www.alliancequartet.com



48. The William Kratt Chord Company (SWD) Sam Lowrance (T), Greg Owens (L), Tim Lowrance (Bs), Thomas Jackson (Ba) Contact Tim: *tlowrance@brandteng.com*; (h): (817) 683-9455



47. Q-tones (SNOBS)Henrik Rosenberg (T), Simon Rylander (L), Kenneth Nilsson (Bs), Johannes Bergman (Ba)
Contact Henrik: henrik@rospart.se; www.quarterstones.com



46. Rush Street (ILL)Steven Davis (T), Duane A. Fenn (Bs), Patrick Henders (Ba), Mike Woods (L)
Contact Mike: laura_mike@comcast.net; (h): (847) 372-4846; (w): (847) 286-1826; www.rushstreetquartet.com



45. Bigtime! (MAD)Chris Arnold (Bs), Joseph Hunter (Ba), John Ward (L), Fernando Sicilia (T)
Contact Joseph: *jhunnal@aol.com*; (h): (718) 248-0755
www.bigapplechorus.org/bigtime.html



44. Bravo! (SLD)Daniel Driscoll (T), Donald Drake (L), David White (Bs), Rob Hopkins (Ba)
Contact Donald: dondrake@windstream.net
http://newhorizonschorus.org/Bravo.php



43. Absolut (SNOBS)From bottom to top: Joakim Flink (Bs), Joacim Stappe (Ba), Bengt Thaysen (T), Richard Öhman (L)
Contact Joakim: *jocke.flink@typa.se*



42. Let's Sing (DIX)Steve Tremper (T), Mark Chandler (L), Greg Zinke (Bs), Joe Doub (Ba)
Contact Mark: mark@alexander-chandler.com; (h): (336) 773-0330



41. Eureka! (SWD)Frank Friedemann (T), Brian Beck (Bs), Art Swanson (L), Rick Haines (Ba)
Contact Brian: bbeckbass@aol.com; (h): (469) 549-1915



40. Hi-Fidelity (FWD)
Gregg (Elvis) Bernhard (Ba), Martin (Elvis) Fredstrom (Bs),
Dan (Elvis) Jordan (L), Craig (Elvis) Ewing (T)
Contact Gregg: HiFiBari@aol.com; www.hifidelityquartet.com



39. Monkey Magic (BABS)Alan Hughes (T), Zac Booles (L), Joe Knight (Ba), Duncan Blackeby (Bs)
Contact Alan: alanhughes86@hotmail.com
www.monkeymagicquartet.com





38. Audacity (FWD)

Byron Bennett (L), John Fynmore (T), Greg Dodge (Bs), Fraser Brown (Ba)

Contact Greg: gdodge@brephoenix.com; (h): (480) 730-9592

(w): (602) 224-4418; www.audacityquartet.com



37. Chameleon (ONT)Jordan Travis (T), Joel Hilchey (Bs), Kevin Harris (L), David Baldwin (Ba)
Contact David: davidphilipbaldwin@gmail.com; (h): (519) 284-3242;
(w): (905) 523-2998; www.chameleonquartet.ca



35. Full Tilt (MAD) – tieEd Cazenas (T), Nick Aiuto (L), Steve White (Bs), Peter Frank (Ba)
Contact Peter: pete@fellowshipqtet.com



35. Attraction (SUN) – tieChad Bennett (Ba), Tom Kentish (Bs), Jeff Lathom (L), Harold Nantz (T)
Contact Chad: zdapperdan@yahoo.com; (h): (407) 758-5366



34. Harmonious Hunks (SUN)Mark Schlinkert (L), Byron Poore (T), Bill Billings (Ba), Jerry Johnson (Bs)
Contact Mark: mschlinkert@cfl.rr.com; (h): (407) 370-5562
www.harmonioushunks.com



33. 3 Outa Four (EVG)

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

Contact Ian: ianmchristensen@hotmail.com; (h): (503) 312-0070

www.3outafour.com



32. 4-Way Stop (JAD)

Ryan McDivitt (Bs), Joseph Downey (Ba), Robbie Churgovich (L), Mike Wright (T)

Contact Ryan: ryan.mcdivitt@gmail.com; (h): (330) 725-0449 www.harmonize.com/4waystop



31. The PURSUIT (SUN)

Jeremy Conover (Ba), Paul Agnew (Bs), Chris Coffee (L), Ben Miller (T) Contact Ben: bbshoptnr@aol.com; (h): (864) 593-6870 www.thepursuitquartet.com



30. Stardust (FWD)

John Mininger (T), Larry Halvorson (L), James Halvorson (Ba), Buzz Bossard (Bs)

Contact John: jondonsing@aol.com; www.stardustquartet.com



29. Skyline (CSD)

Josh Umhoefer (Ba), Mike Louque (Bs), Tim Zielke (L), Jake Pirner (T) Contact Josh: *ummy43@yahoo.com*; (h): (262) 567-2507



28. 65 South (CAR)

Will Daniel Mudd Simmons (T), Aaron Dale (L), Christopher Gregory (Bs), James Pennington (Ba)

Contact James: pennington.jl@gmail.com; (h): (859) 539-3644



27. The Party (PIO)

Kevin Morey (T), Toby Shaver (L), Walter Krause (Bs), Mark Spear (Ba) Contact Toby: toby74@gmail.com; (h): (734) 799-1196





26. Jet Set (EVG)Wes Yoder (T), Tim Marron (L), Mike Marron (Bs), Jeremiah Pope (Ba)
Contact Tim: marrontm@hotmail.com; (h): (253) 820-9121
www.jetsetquartet.com



25. Crunch Time (MAD)Brett Thomas (T), Shawn Thomas (L), Eric Wallen (Bs), Matthew Fellows (Ba)
Contact Eric: *eric.c.wallen@gmail.com*



24. Genesis (SWD)Clockwise from bottom left: Todd Reavis (L), Ross Larrison (Bs), Seth Lafler (T), Bryan Pulver (Ba)
Contact Ross: rossman1999@yahoo.com; (h): (830) 491-7152



23. X-factor (LOL)Keith Olson (T), Timothy Milbrandt (Bs), Seth Fetzer (L), Brent Graham (Ba)
Contact Timothy: tjmilbrandt@gmail.com; www.xfactorquartet.com



22. On Demand (SUN)Tristan St. John (T), Paul Saca (L), James Breedon (Ba),
Jonathan Meadows (Bs)
Contact Tristan: jmsvocalist@yahoo.com; (h): (305) 635-2559



21. Lucky Day (SUN)

Roger Ross (T), Eric Bell (L), Bryan Ziegler (Bs), Paul Gilman (Ba)

Contact Roger: rarchloe@cfl.rr.com; (h): (407) 595-5359

www.luckydayquartet.com

Continued on page 27

Quartet Semifinals



Old School

three times a decade at most do we experience such a perfect storm of music, emotion and electricity in the quartet arena. A very select few produce such a sensation that folks will still be talking about the performance many years later. The thing is, I've watched some of those (and this) legendary performances on video, and yes, they're still great, but something's missing. That special, rare musical connection between song, performer and audience appears to strike only once—and only live. If you were in Anaheim, you know what I'm talking about. If not, sorry, that moment is gone and it ain't coming back. That's what makes these moments so precious. Hope you're with us for the next one. Voice of the contest. Hands down, it's Old School's Awesome Joe

Song of the contest. "Lucky Old Sun," by Crossroads. Maybe two or

... Krones (second from right). Sweet Mother of Oxley, what a bass! (Also his lead and tenor, particularly, look like they could have a real future in barbershop.) Last year, they wowed with powerful chords sung ... real ... slooooow. This year, Old School did their name even prouder with highly musical renderings—arguably often definitive treatments—of old classics, with unbeatable presentation values. The quartet to beat in Philly.

New groups shaking things up. Musical Island Boys were a true rarity—four international novices reaching the finals in their debut. Masterpiece reached the finals in their debut, too, as did Glory Days in '07, but veteran quartetters have to work a lot harder for their ovations, as either group could tell you. (FYI to audiences: Glory Days has just one gold medalist, and he's singing a different part. They deserved better!)

Reaching the semifinals in a quartet debut is a big deal, too. Joining 'Round Midnight in the honor were McPhly and The Edge. The former, an intentionally quirky persona matched with an incredibly bright, distinctive sound produced by three leads and a guy who sings real high. The latter, a rare vocal match who create huge overtones to go with great interp.

Veterans TKO were new to the semifinals, and 3 Men & A Melody and Vocality aren't new to anything, but they deserve a mention because I like them.



Earned status. Three years ago, The Allies, a decorated lead and three unknowns, competed on a lark and aualified for International after five rehearsals. Once mistaken for "Dave Calland and the Pips," in Anaheim there were no footprints on Dave's coattails.





outside the box. "Porgy and Bess" and Rachmaninoff piano concertos are "old sonas," aren't they? Voce added Joker's Wild tenor champ Stephen lannocright) to brighten up their huge, rich sound and nearly reach the finals.



Not "OC Lite." Four talented, dashing Westminster Chorus barbershop fanatics. The Crush didn't invite the comparison, but seeing as certain heartthrobs have graduated from competition ... ladies, you've got to squeal for someone!







3 Men & a Melody



Off stage









Options, options ... But you can't do it all. Thursday alone featured all these events in addition to the quartet semifinals and AIC Show. Philly will feature a more casual pace and more free time.





2009 International Quartet Semifinalists



20. Hot Air Buffoons (JAD)
Harold Haflett (Ba), Randy Baughman (Bs), Mark Lang (L), Denny Price (T)
Contact Denny: hotairbuffoons@aol.com; (h): (330) 638-5183
www.hotairbuffoons.com



19. Vocality (LOL)
Jay Althof (T), Tony Blackwood (L), David Boyd (Bs), Bob Albachten (Ba)
Contact Tony: tonyblackwood@usfamily.net; (h): (651) 735-7849



18. The Crush (FWD)Matthew Gray (T), Patrick Haedtler (L), Paul Tabone (Bs), John Brockman (Ba)
Contact Paul: info@thecrushquartet.com; (h): (760) 522-6376
www.thecrushquartet.com



17. TKO (JAD)

Aaron Hughes (Ba), David Jarrell (Bs), Jonathan Zimmerman (L),
Garry Texeira (T)

Contact David: tkoquartet@yahoo.com; (h): (419) 352-3775
(w): (419) 575-3117; www.tkoquartet.com

2009 International Quartet Semifinalists



16. The Edge (FWD)

Tom Moore (T), Jason Remley (L), J Friedman (Bs), Sam Papageorge (Ba) Contact Jason: *jasonremley@yahoo.com*; (h): (714) 379-6556 www.theedgequartet.com



15. McPhly (RMD)

Ryan Wilson (Ba), Travis Tabares (Bs), Brian Fox (T), Curtis Terry (L) Contact Curtis: curlymt@comcast.net; (h): (720) 364-5800 www.mcphlyqt.com



14. 'Round Midnight (MAD)

Larry Bomback (T), TJ Carollo (Ba), Jeffrey Glemboski (Bs), Wayne Grimmer (L) Contact Larry: *lbomback@gmail.com*; (h): (212) 580-0904 www.roundmidnightquartet.com



13. 3 Men & A Melody (CSD)

Brad Stephens (Ba), Chris Droegemueller (T), Brian Bellof (Bs), Eric Derks (L) Contact Brian: *brian@3menandamelody.com*; (h): (816) 569-4747 (w): (816) 359-6101; www.3menandamelody.com



12. Lunch Break (DIX)

Shane Scott (T), Eddie Holt (L), Mike O'Neil (Bs), Drew Ellis (Ba)
Contact Shane: fullvoicetenor@gmail.com; (h): (615) 210-7764
(w): (615) 832-4184; www.lunchbreakquartet.com



11. Voce (LOL)

Paul Harris (Ba), Jay Giallombardo (Bs), Keith Harris (L), Stephen Wilde (T)
Contact Jay: gsbMedalMusic@comcast.net; (h): (847) 272-1022
(w): (847) 272-6854; www.vocequartet.com
Continued on page 48

Association of International Champions Show











The Good. All of it. The chorus, the champs, and especially NBC exec and **New Tradition** quartet bass John Miller—spot-on as emcee Groucho, reprising his 1985 gold medal-winning character. A man of that talent deserves a career in show business. Oh, wait ...

The Bad. None of it. High production values, perfect pacing, the funny stuff was actually funny, the tear-jerker stuff actually, um, jerked our tears. No wonder all these guys are champions: They're world-class talents. Yet, year after year, competitors who've never reached these heights get most of the convention's exposure and glory. For that rare few who reach the pinnacle, what do we do? We sequester the cream of our cream to one measly night a year. Something's gotta change, or a bunch of these past champs are going get together, enter our contests, and show the rest of us how it's really done.

Oh, wait ...



The case against rehearsing. It had been 24 years since the 25th-Anniversary champs sang their last note. But with only 30 minutes practice before hitting the stage, The Rapscallions were every bit as good as we remembered. Well, they were really good, anyway ... honestly, I don't remember The Rapscallions (zinal)





Most overextended. Mr. Jay G. Garbanzo Beans ... er, Jay Giallombardo. (It's Groucho's joke.) The director and arranger for the amazing AIC Chorus also performed three rounds with his quartet, directed the most medaled chorus of all time, and probably arranged all three groups' songs, not to mention other groups' new pieces for Anaheim. It must've taken a toll. In the weeks following the convention, he resigned as bass of Voce quartet and from the helm of The New Tradition Chorus.



Chorus Contest, sessions 1 & 2



Storybook ending. If you'd written the Ambassadors of Harmony's story arc as a Hollywood screenplay, the cynics would have called it too diché, just a rehash of Rocky 1-4 with pitch pipes. Circa 1980, the lowly **Daniel Boone Chorus** catches the vision of a talented but unproven rising star (David Wright). They change their name and for the next 25 years sweat and scrape and claw their way up the competitive ladder. Along the way, the master recognizes he's been surpassed by his protégé and hands over the baton to Jim Henry. In 2004 they reach the summit—an international championship and recognition as one of the elite choruses of all time.

But are they, really? Their 2007 return to competition pits them against the new and amazing Westminster Chorus, bigger and better than 2006 when they nearly defeated the mighty Vocal Majority (still undefeated after 30 years). Undaunted, the 2007 Ambassadors produce a spectacular set far superior to their 2004 gold-medal set. Westminster is equally spectacular—in fact they tie, but Westminster wins the tie-breaker. The Ambassadors' bounce back in 2008 performance to top even 2007's masterpiece ... once again, second place. Then comes 2009—they watch The Vocal Majority deliver arguably the most perfect set of all time. The VM's fierce standing ovation goes on forever. Will "better than the year before" once again only be "almost good enough"?

You know the finale. The Ambassadors go on to deliver the most exciting, flawless and highest-scoring (97.5%) set in Society history. They win the trophy and the admiration of The Vocal Majority—the Ambassadors' heroes and exemplars ever since they were the last-place-in-district Daniel Boone Chorus.

Some other group gets the drama next year. Will Westminster defeat the VM in their first rematch? Will the VM trump "Seventy-Six Trombones" and reclaim the all-time high-water mark? Or will another group sweep in and surprise both? We don't write these stories, but aren't they great to watch?



As sweet as a Wonka Bar. How did The Alliance present a great piece of art like that and not come away with a medal? (Answer is on top of next page.) Consolation prize:

- most clever scenery/costume change
- best movie adaptation
- cutest barbershopper

Here's another: Best subliminal advertising the arena concession owners could have dreamed of at 9:40 on a Friday night.





ellence in emcees. If the Gassman brothers are blind, how come they're so good at sight gags? No jokes off the internet for them, just plenty of original material and anecdotes that kept us in stitches.

Here's Carl Hancuff's entire speech, after he enjoyed a standing O as the Dave LaBar Award winner for outstanding emcees: "I think you're all standing up to straighten your underwear. [pause for laughter] Don't you all feel deep down in your heart ... that you wish Elvis were still alive, and all the impersonators were dead?" [acknowledges applause and walks off stage]



This is restraint? Before the contest, Midwest Vocal Express creative genius Mike Lietke told me that their next wild concept would wait till Philly—Anaheim would just be a straight ballad plus an uptune with some added MVE flavor. Just like he said: a sweet ballad and a standard Austin-Powers-saves-the-world-from-Dr.-Evil's-doomsday-machinethat-turns-everyone-into-a-baritone uptune. (Those things practically write themselves.) Bonus: After seeing them perform as toy soldiers, fish, Pinocchios and penguins, we finally got to see what these guys look like. (Mike, of course, continues to wear the Dr. Evil outfit night and day.)





Manliest singers. It's as if a mad scientist (left) crossed the King's Singers with a professional rugby team. Real men sing, but few do it as well or with the passion and energy of New Zealand's Vocal FX!

Photographers trophy.

With most groups, you wait, click when something interest-

ing happens, then wait while they set up something else. With the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, click at will—their transitions are as good-looking as their "pops."

Chutzpah award. The MegaCity Chorus realizes what our Society age demographic looks like, right? "You're 63, you're breathing, and you're mine" featured non-stop wicked mobility and senility gags, and who can forget how the curtain closed on their unfinished song after they kept forgetting the tag? The judges didn't forget, if placement is any indication.

Best chorus, pound for pound. zero8, half because of the amazinally refined power the 31 young Swedes put out, half because we have *quartets* that outweigh them.











Half Jack Benny, half Nostradamus: Steve Delehanty. Setup: The Southern Gateway Chorus did a great job seemed longer than its 11+ minutes. During both medleys, the number often seemed to have just built to its climatic end between the two medleys, that happened A LOT .)

extraordinaire Steve spotted a couple of non-performing Southern Gateway members. He dead-panned, "Is the a valid question. Cue Atlanta Vocal Project, the first group Leave You," from South Pacific.

Background photo: "Seventy-Six Trombones" by the Ambassadors of Harmony (pre-costume change) PHOTO BY LORIN MAY

> Dear Conan O'Brien: Thanks for covering our most recent convention. Most of us were away cheering on our top groups during your visit, denying you access to little more than dorky stereotypes for material. If you had stayed longer, you'd have met hundreds of cool young guys who swear by the great musical and social benefits of the hobby, such as these three singing for a typical fan. What it is about barbershop that waxes our mustaches? Stop by Philadelphia in July and we'd be happy to elaborate.



orus Contest, sessions 1 & 2





Newest superchori. Yes, Great Northern Union and Sound of the Rockies have

medaled before, but not like this! To go with scary good singing and superb choreography and dancing, they have swagger—they know how good they are and they know they haven't reached their respective peaks.

We saw this kind of attitude shift circa 2002-03 from none other than the Ambassadors of Harmony, just before they kicked it up the final notch to capture their first gold in 2004. One difference between now and then—The Vocal Majority, The Ambassadors and Westminster Chorus have all earned silver over the stage, and the **Masters of Harmony** are undefeated since 1990.



Down, not out. The Vocal Majority did not lose in Anaheim—they were outscored. Their first silver medal in 30 years was also their best set in 30 years, judging from both their scores and the endless ovation that followed their unreal presentation of arranger Aaron Dale's "Sweet Georgia Brown." They briefly set held the all-time charus scoring record (96.3%), putting to rest the speculation that the VM had lost a step following their near miss win in 2006. However, that record lasted only 9 hours and 11 minutes before the Ambassadors of Harmony shattered it with a 97.5%. Based on director Jim Clancy's personality and the VM's competitive reputation, anyone betting they'll outdo themselves again in Philly?

Familiar territory. After a brief break from competition, The Northern Lights finished out the decade where they spent the rest of it—in the medals.

- **Placement for Atlanta** Vocal project in 2009, with an 87.9 score that would have won a medal in 2008. **Kentucky Vocal Union likewise** improved while moving out of the top 10. See below stat for primary reason
- Choruses that didn't compete in 2008 and finished in the top 10 in 2009: The Vocal Majority, Great Northern **Union, The Northern Lights,** zero8, Vocal FX
- **M** Youth choruses in the top 10 OR affiliate choruses in the top 10. It's the same guys: zero8 and Vocal FX
- **Perfect 100 Presentation** scores (out of 5 judges) for Ambassadors "Seventy-**Six Trombones**"



The time has come to fund the programs that will reverse current trends and lead to growth. Will you share your charitable voice? It's the only way the Barbershop Harmony Society will be saved.

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2009 International Chorus Competitors

































































Don't watch, do. The competitors deserve all the attention we give them, but it's worth pointing out that most of the chords sung in Anaheim were improvised. Thank you Hilton hotel staff—we hardly let up all week.



College Quartet Contest

















Thank goodness the quartet contest is moving to Tuesday night in Philly—it was 8 a.m. in Anaheim. But for most quartets you'd never have known the early hour, nor listening to the audience, at least those members cheering on a hometown affiliate quartet. (An advantage? The contest started at 5 p.m. Stockholm time, but it was also 3 a.m. in New Zealand, so who knows?)

After going to bed so late the night before, I wasn't looking forward to the early wake up call. Mostly because I was stupid. Even the bottom half that didn't post scores high enough for the international contest was still entertaining, and the other guys made me reconsider my belief that the quartet semifinals is the best round of competition at the international contest.

After the fifth or sixth time telling myself, "There's our new champion!" I just gave up and gave in.

I'll hand the keys to the future of barbershop to these young guys any day. Might as well—they practically own the present.

Number of 2009 collegiate quartets posting scores above 76 points, the threshold for international competition (number in 2004: 1). Four 2009 quartets scored more than 80 points

Quartets named after highpowered blender dips on YouTube (Blend Tec, Will it Blend)

Last year the international avartet champion didn't feature at least one past collegiate medalist

Collegiate medals owned by Paul Saca of On Demand (above, second from left). Number of years he's competed: 6

Collegiate medalists quartets featuring members of 2008 collegiate champ Ringmasters living up to the "encouragement" aspects of chapter life. All three past champs switched voice parts











26. When In Rome (PIO)

Alex Davenport (T), Rob DeLeon (L), Matt Traylor (Bs), Dillon Berg (Ba)

University of Michigan

Contact Dillon: dtberg@umich.edu



25. Upturn (ILL)

Jeremy Kings (Ba), Matt Carlen (L), Donovan Davis (Bs), Paul Hart Cochran (T)

Illinois Wesleyan University, University of Illinois

Contact Donovan: davisdonovan@gmail.com



24. CounterPoint (LOL)

Ashley York (T), Jacob Oxley (L), Corey Meverden (Bs), Jason Seiberlich (Ba) Milwaukee School of Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, University of Wisconsin-Fond Du Lac, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Contact Corey: meverc42@uwosh.edu



23. The Distance (ONT)

Jake Dunbar (T), Mario Hernandez (Bs), Erik Clack (L), Ross Hansen (Ba)
Algonquin College, University of New Mexico,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Contact Jake: motivationalfreak@gmail.com



22. Let It Ride! (FWD)

Carson Knuth (T), James Eaton (L), Brian Myer (Bs), Nick Pizzo (Ba)
University of Nevada Las Vegas
Contact Nick: letitride1@mac.com



21. Audio Avenue (CSD)

Caleb Fouse (Ba), Aaron Walker (L), Joe Fine (Bs), Chance Gates (T)
Kansas State University, Wichita State University,
Emporia State University

Contact Caleb: calebfouse@hotmail.com



20. Will It Blend? (EVG)

James Jones (T), lan Kelly (L), Jason Stouder (Bs), Sean Kelly (Br) University of Washington, Bellevue College, Western Washington University Contact Ian: iankelly@yahoo.com



18. Epic (FWD) Munsoor Abbas Shah (T), Jason Dyer (Bs), Andrew Nickell (L),

James Morgan (Ba) CSU Sacramento Contact Jason: jasonadyer@hotmail.com



19. The University Vocal Band Express (FWD)

Justin Miller (Ba), David Rakita (L), Eric Orr (Bs), Lane Aikin (T) Whitman College, University Southern California, Chapman University, Mt. San Antonio College Contact Lane: aikinlt@gmail.com



17. Next Stop (MAD)

Chris Granger (T), Kevin Feltes (L), Braden Lynk (Bs), Dan Cook (Ba) Carnegie Mellon, University of North Carolina, University of Iowa, Syracuse Contact Dan: javert13@hotmail.com



16. Blend Tech (NED)

Daniel Allison (Ba), Christopher Jones (Bs), Andrew Wheaton (L), Josh Beswick (T)

McGill University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania Contact Andrew: Andrew.wheaton@sympatico.ca



15. Universal (SLD)

Matt Clancy (Ba), Dave Melonson (Bs), Sean Mulligan (L), Mike LaScala (T)
Houghton College, Alfred State University at Buffalo, Mercyhurst Colleget, Alfred Almond, SUNY IT

Contact Sean: smulli36@mercyhurst.edu





14. Pacific Flavours (NZABS)Chad Va (Ba), Sonny Miti (Bs), Daniel Afolau (L), Fala Tuala (T)
Bishop Viard College, Whitireia Polytechnic, Victoria University



13. RamTonz (DIX)
Luke Veazey (T), Andrew A. Lowe (L), Lucas Scott Lawrence (Bs),
James Berrian (Ba)
University of Mobile; Contact Alan Miller: AMiller@mail.umobile.edu



12. Monkey Magic (BABS)Zac Booles (L), Duncan Blackeby (Bs), Alan Hughes (T) Joe Knight (Ba)
Univ. of Liverpool, University of Wales, University of Exeter, Cardiff University
Contact Alan: alanhughes86@hotmail.com



11. Voiceover (SWD)
Sam Lowrance (T), Greg Owens (L), Spencer Mayer (Bs), Colin Fuller (Ba)
Tarrant County College, UNT Health Science Center
Contact Sam: m4maniak@yahoo.com



10. Expedition (LOL)
Jake Umhoefer (Bs), Jeremy Ganswindt (T), Jay Fahl (L), Bryan Ziegler (Ba)
Milwaukee Lutheran High School, Wauke School, UW-River Falls,
Waukesha County Tech., University of Wisconsin
Contact Jake: bbrshopper@yahoo.com



9. Instant Classic (CAR)
James Pennington (Ba), Kyle Kitzmiller (Bs), Theo Hicks (L),
David Zimmerman (T)
Ball State University, Anderson University, University of Kentucky
Contact Theo: trhicks@anderson.edu



8. Revolution (RMD)

Nate Zenk (T), Brian Fox (L), Travis Tabares (Bs), Wes Short (Ba) *University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University*Contact Wes: WCShort@gmail.com



7. Varsity (SWD)

Manny Lopez (Ba), Bryan Pulver (L), Grant Goulding (Bs), Seth Lafler (T) Texas State University Contact Seth: nlyonfire 18@hotmail.com



5. 4-Way Stop (JAD) - tie

Clockwise from top left: Joe Downey (Ba), Mike Wright (T), Ryan McDivitt (Bs), Robbie Churgovich (L)

The Ohio State University, University of Akron, University of Toledo Contact Ryan: ryan.mcdivitt@gmail.com



5. Go Fish! (SNOBS)

Emanuel Roll (T), Albin Nedler (L), Christian Anderson (Bs), Christopher De Liseo Peterson (Ba)

Stockholm's Music Gymnasium, Stockholm Royal College of Music Contact Christopher: c.deliseo.peterson@gmail.com



4. Prestige (JAD)

Gordie Howe (T), Drew Ochoa (L), David Parrett (Bs), Nick Gordon (Ba) Bowling Green State University Contact Nick: gordon@lognet.bgsu.edu



3. On Demand (SUN)

Tristan St. John (T), Paul Saca (L), Jamie Breedon (Ba), Jon Meadows (Bs)

University of Miami, University of North Florida, University of Iowa

Contact Jamie: JMSVocalist@yahoo.com

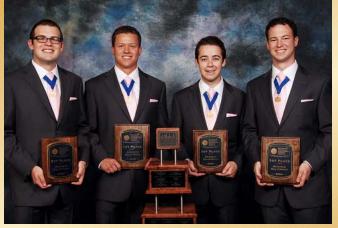




2. Swedish Match (SNOBS)

Mattias Larsson (Ba), Mathias Roth (Bs), Jakob Stenberg (L), Rasmus Krigström (T) Stockholm Royal College of Music

Contact Rasmus: rasmus.krigstrom@hotmail.com



1. The Vagrants (FWD)

Joey Buss (T), Jonny Tillery (L), David Meye (Bs), Colin Plain (Ba)
Cal-State Long Beach, Cal Baptist University, University of Redlands, Orange Coast College

Contact David: daviddmeye@gmail.com





Who needs drama?

Storm Front expressed what everyone was thinking in a finals bit where they'd spent too many hours rehearsing to stay awake on stage. Awake and exasperated lead Jim Clark discovered his newly narcoleptic quartet mates were sometimes responsive on an unconscious level, and tried to rally the three if not wake them.

"Give me an 's'!"

"S!" they sang back between snores. This repeated through all the letters until they'd spelled the quartet name.

"And what does that spell?" Jim sang.

"Storm Front" his still sleeping quartet mates sang back.

"And who's going to win?" he beamed.

"Crossroads," they snored back.

Crossroads owned the stage. Even the funny looking ... um ... what was that hanging above the stage?— geometric thingy—looked kind of like the Crossroads logo. We've had a lot of contests in recent years in which nobody could really call it from the seats. It was nice to have a break from arguing about gold, so we could argue all the more about second through fifth. In any case, we knew there would be a great show in the middle.

We honored the Dapper Dans of Disneyland, watched 2009 Youth Chorus Contest winners Northwest Vocal Project, and got a spectacular reprise of the Ambassadors of Harmony's record-setting set. From both choruses we caught a glimpse of the future. Renewed confirmation that young guys love barbershop harmony now as much as ever, and that youth choruses are no passing fad but key to long-term future growth. And the Ambassadors redefined the level



of art and showmanship possible in a barbershop chorus.

As the finals drew to a close, we saw history once again: The first quartet with four past gold medalists, the amazing New Zealand-based finalists Musical Island Boys as they won the first "Dealer's Choice Award"—the international equivalent of the novice quartet trophy. We watched a second young affiliate quartet, Ringmasters, make history as the first offshore international medalist—mostly while singing traditional barbershop standards. Speaking of old standards, does anyone doubt Old School's Joe Connelly is far from his fourth gold medal, with tenor Kipp Buckner getting his third?

Although the finals ended later than usual, everyone left the arena with an energy that lasted well into the night. The party was only getting started, Nothing beats Saturday night of international!



Mission accomplished.

Going into the contest, Stateline Grocery worked extra hard on creating visual excitement to match their stellar vocals. Everything was great from our side of the footlights, as they remained in the medals despite their toughest competition yet.







MIB vs. MIB. Men in Black and Musical Island Boys chose the same initials. Also, they're both young, they won collegiate gold in 2005 and 2006, respectively, both sing awesome. Any differences? Just 9,036 miles on an airplane, 17 hours on a clock, Northeastern District vs. North Island, New Zealand, drama club vs. pep dub, powered finesse vs. finessed power, day vs. night, ninth place vs. tenth. Just don't mix them up!

Crossroads scoring average, the highest of any quartet champ since PLATINUM (2000)

Number of finals quartets featuring past collegiate competitors (all but Old School and Glory Days)

number of intact collegiate champions in the quartet finals. Ringmasters (2008), Musical Island Boys (2006) and Men in Black (2005) all made their first finals appearance this year

Figuratively and literally, it was as if Crossroads loomed over the quartet stage all week long

CROSSROADS LOGO OBSERVATION: GRADY KERR CROSSROADS BACKGROUND PHOTO: LORIN MAY

Auspicious image. Old School and Ringmasters wearing silver and bronze on Saturday night. Both made immense improvements between 2008 and 2009. If they improve like that again, any doubt we'll see both singing "Keep the Whole World Singing" on-stage on Saturday night in Philly? Will there be a different color of medal around their necks?



2009 International Quartet Finalists



10. Musical Island Boys (NZABS)

Jeffrey Hunkin (T), Marcellus Washburn (L), Matthew Gifford (Bs), William Hunkin (Ba)

Contact Jeffrey: nzjeff@gmail.com; (h): (644) 232-5602 www.musicalislandboys.wellington.net.nz/



9. Men In Black (NED)

Ray Johnson (Ba), Karl Hudson (Bs), Oliver Merrill (L), Tony Nasto (T) Contact Tony: meninblacktenor@gmail.com; (h): 860-232-5605 www.singers.com/barbershop/meninblack.html



8. The Allies (JAD)

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



7. Glory Days (SWD)

Steve DeCrow (T), Timothy Reynolds (L), Joel T. Rutherford (Bs), Richard Middaugh Jr. (Ba)

Contact Joel: joel@glorydaysquaret.com; (h): (972) 492-5812 (w): 972) 930-4042; www.glorydaysquartet.com



6. Masterpiece (FWD)

Rob Menaker (T), Brett Littlefield (Ba), Mark Hale (L), Alan Gordon (Bs) Contact Rob: robmenaker@gmail.com www.masterpiecequartet.com



4. State Line Grocery (DIX) - tie

Mark Lamback (Ba), Drew McMillan (Bs), Tim Brooks (L), Dylan Oxford (T) Contact Tim: *TBrooks@TJBSales.com*; (h): 770) 982-5392 (w): (770) 449-0999; www.statelinegrocery.com

2009 International Quartet Finalists



4. Ringmasters (SNOBS) – tie

Emanuel Roll (Ba), Martin Wahlgren (Bs), Rasmus Krigström (L), Jakob Stenberg (T)

Contact Rasmus: rasmus.krigstrom@hotmail.com www.ringmastersquartet.com



3. Storm Front (RMD)

Darin Drown (Ba), Syd Libsack (Bs), Jim Clark (L), Jeff Selano (T)
Contact Syd: syd@stormfrontquartet.com; (h): (706) 367-8175
(w): (404) 677-8720; www.stormfrontquartet.com



2. Old School (MAD)

Kipp Buckner (T), Joe Connelly (L), Joseph Krones (Bs), Jack Pinto (Ba) Contact Joe: OldSchoolLead@aol.com; (h): 513) 878-9855 www.oldschoolqt.com



1. Crossroads (CSD)

Fred Farrell (T), Michael Ślamka (Ľ), Jim Henry (Bs), Brandon Guyton (Ba) Contact Fred: farrell05@comcast.net; (h): (239) 590-0498 (w): (239) 425-3000; www.crossroadsquartet.com



The aftermath. A few showed up for the Sunday service, others extended their California vacation. Most of us boarded a plane and slept all the way home. After five amazing days on an ear-candy high, it's a

great kind of tired, but tiring nonetheless.

Based on member feedback, Philly will be different. A looser schedule, a more casual pace, more free time. College quartets will compete in full voice Tuesday night. Your Saturday morning is wide open. Most nights, you'll have hours between contest end and bedtime—and a five-minutes or less walk to your inexpensive room. Bring every tag you know. Unless your name is Jim Bagby, you'll have time to sing all of them!



Leave the car at home

An incredible singing and historic vacation all within a six-block radius!

What's better than Philadelphia in the summertime, where you can eat mouth-watering cheesesteaks and visit historical landmarks? Philadelphia in the summertime, eating cheesesteaks and visiting historical landmarks with barbershoppers!

Dozens of great attractions are within comfortable walking distance of the 2010 international convention. And the contests, shows, tagging, and other hotels? Even closer!

The "land of the Liberty Bell" offers much more than historical landmarks and unique shopping. When you're not singing tags in the lobby or wandering the Harmony Marketplace, delve into the scenic neighborhoods, admire matchless architecture and explore historic museums. Late afternoon, the city of brotherly love truly comes to life with performing arts, charming

tours, first class dining, and energetic nightlife. Some of the attractions nearby include:

Liberty Bell. On display at its new home—the Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park—the 2,000 lb. Liberty Bell is a free attraction housed in a glass building overlooking Independence Hall. Learn the facts, myths, and the history behind

Who's got Philly's best cheesesteak sandwich? You won't run out of worthy candidates.

the crack and get an X-ray view of the bell's inner-workings.

Philadelphia Museum of Art. The Greekstyle building features more than 225,000 brilliant works of art.

Cheesesteak Challenge. Philadelphia's favorite comfort food since 1930, sliced steak, your choice of melted cheeses, and grilled onions on a long Italian roll. Locals debate which institution offers the best-Pat's or Geno's. Both are open 24/7.

Reading Terminal Market. This lively bazaar at 12th and Arch streets maintains its 1893 roots as the largest public market under one roof.

National Constitution Center. See freedom firsthand and take a virtual tour with the late Peter Jennings at the first and only museum in the nation dedicated to telling the story of the U.S. Constitution.

Trolley Tour. Hop on a burgundy and green Victorian-style open-air trolley and make memories while



Spend the week of Independence Day in America's birthplace. Every barbershop event, every hotel, and many major cultural attractions, are all within easy walking distance.







you hear the full Philadelphia story from an expert guide. The trolley gives you unlimited, 24hour, hop-on, hop-off access to 20 major attractions.

The Franklin and the Academy of Natural Sciences. These attractions house scientific innovation and are among the oldest museums in Philadelphia. Explore the life and death of a star or pinpoint distant galaxies at The Franklin's Fels Planetarium, the nation's second oldest. Next, walk to the Academy of Natural Sciences on 19th Street and experience a tropical garden filled with butterflies from around the world.

QVC Studio Tour. A one-ofa-kind guided walking tour through the fantastic world of electronic retailing. At this state-of-the-art broadcasting facility, guests will see and experience how QVC products are sourced, tested, brought to life on air, and delivered to millions of QVC customers.



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Member/Associate/Affiliate Pricing (up to two registrations allowed per member # at the discounted price) Before Jan. 15: \$139 After Jan. 15: \$165

Non-Member Pricing Before Jan. 15: \$159 After Jan. 15: \$179

Youth Pricing (25 &Under) Before Jan. 15: \$69 After Jan. 15: \$89

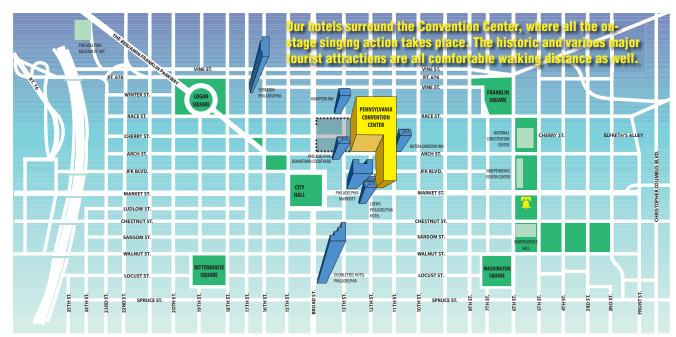
Family Four Pack

(two adults, two youth from same household)

Before Jan. 15: \$349 (\$67 savings) After Jan. 15: \$379 (\$129 savings) Additional Youth: \$25

Travel Discounts

American Airlines: Get a 5% discount by using promo code 9360AD when booking online at www.aa.com Avis has discounted rates for our convention see www.avis.com



In times of grief, understanding Voices

The Voices group intends to grow

you know someone who would like

to join Voices, contact ssauls@

Susan Sauls, Kentucky

Diane Hackett, Colorado

Judy Steinkamp, California

HARMONY

Sue Henry, Florida

We receive a name, a telephone number and a message no one likes to hear. We pick up the phone and makes a call. Many, many of these calls have been

made; some names are familiar to us and others, perfect strangers who are members of the barbershop family.

One such call was made and these are one widows feelings.

Many of you consider barbershopping not only a hobby but a way of life. Often spouses feel the same connection. Our group called "Voices", have set out to bridge that connection should a member pass away. Under the guidance of Har-

mony Foundation, five woman who themselves are widows, volunteered to contact widows or family members to offer condolences and support. Our

commitment is to be that understanding voice.

From our calls so far, we have learned that most spouses want to continue their association with the barbershop community. A member of Voices was asked "How do I continue to get the Harmonizer"? Though the questions vary, we always try to provide information, contacts and answers. We acknowledge that some spouses are not involved with their husbands hobby and during our call, they share those feelings with us. We appreciate their honesty and have found that they are grateful for our call of

We would like to ask each member for assistance when one of your fellow barbershopper passes away. Our information comes directly from several sources; Individuals, Chapters, Districts and Harmony Foundation. It is that process that we have for reaching out to spouses.

Voices looks forward to assisting Districts, the Barbershop Harmony Society, Harmony Foundation and most impor-

tantly you the member. We want to be there when members, their spouses or families need compassion and understanding the most.

Voices feels this is just one way we can "give back" to the barbershop community that has meant so much to us. Our husbands were committed to the art form, maintaining lifelong friendships and were dedicated to the future of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It is our hope to keep their hopes and dreams alive serving you the member by using an understanding voice.



Voices helps widows maintain their network of barbershop friends

After my husband's sudden death, the first call after the dust settled came from Marianne Schlinkert. The extending of sympathy and support was heartwarming.

My husband Bill's second love, after myself and family, was barbershop harmony. He was a 68-year member. As a concert pianist myself, Bill's passion for this hobby swept me off my feet. Throughout our 46 years of married



life, I came to enjoy the music, cherish the friendships and admire his dedication to every aspect of the

I wanted to remain close to the barbershop familv. When Marianne called, I knew right away she understood what I was feeling. Having a group of women contacting a newly widowed individual is so important. It made a difference when I felt vulnerable and lonely.

Please make this group of voices a permanent extension of the Society. I know for certain it helped me over a difficult adjustment and continue my association with barbershop friends and events. What I know for sure is that Barbershoppers care.

Marianne **Schlinkert** Foundina Voices member maschlink@ msn.com



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For Immediate Release June 29, 2009

Peery Products Company, Inc. Announces New Partnership

Peery Products Company, Inc. Partners with the Barbershop Harmony Society

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Peery Products Company, Inc. and the
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Success! Readers report what works

Still harmonizing past the century mark

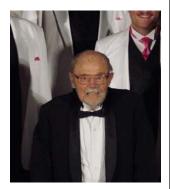
hese men were already walking and talking toddlers by the time the first recorded musical use of the term "barber shop" appeared in 1910.

Orvel Hanel, a member of Voices in Harmony, celebrated his 100th birthday with 200 residents of The Terraces in Los Gatos, Calif. Hanel and his quartet, The Century Notes, entertained their audience with songs such as, "And Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet." With a combined age of 334 years

and collectively 191 years of Society membership, this must surely be the oldest quartet in both years and active Society experience!

Another celebration of 100 years of life took place on July 22. John Bachman, a member of the **Boise** Chapter, along with other chapter members at-





THE APTLY NAMED CENTURY NOTES: Steve Gummersall (70; joined 1972), Mark Hildebrand (81, joined 1954), Orv Hanel (100, joined 1960), Mary Bertelson (83, joined 1958). Right: John Bachman, a weekly stalwart at Boise Chapter meetings.

> tended a reception in Bachman's honor hosted by his daughter. The Evergreen District honored Bachman at a convention in 2008 as the oldest active barbershop member in the Society. Willard Scott told his Today Show audience that Bachman's long, fruitful life was due to singing in a barbershop chorus.

HAPPINESS AND SORROW FOR BUFFALO BILLS FAMILY. After having been awarded the highest honors that our barbershop society has to offer, on October 8th the **Buffalo Bills** were honored by the general music community of Western **New York for** their significant achievements by being inducted into the Buffalo



Music Hall of Fame (www.BuffaloMusic.org). Present to accept the award was baritone Dick Grapes, Barbara Shea-Tilton (daughter of lead Al Shea), Karen Reed-Way and Nancy Reed-Wirkmaa (daughters of tenor Vern Reed). Numerous barbershoppers from Seneca Land District were in attendance to witness

the event and honor the Buffalo Bills, including the current Seneca Land District Quartet Champions, Empire State Quartet, who appropriately sang "Lida" Rose" as part of the presentation.

Deepest condolences to Dick, whose wife, Doris, passed away unexpectedly less than three weeks later on October 27.

More barbershop in recent media

Hollywood and Madison Avenue execs were thinking harmony this summer, as evidenced by these national U.S. marketing campaigns and movies.

Members of **Tradewinds** Ouartet were featured in a recent national Time/Warner TV commercial featuring three-time **NASCAR** Champion



Jimmie Johnson. With Johnson are Allen Finley (Bs), Adam Gossage (L) and Larry Lane (T). See it at http://tinyurl.com/jjbbshop.



A dash of Tabasco® pepper sauce makes four pepperonis start singing in this U.S.-wide television and web campaign. To our knowledge, no barbershoppers participated. See it at http://tinyurl.com/singingpizza.

The Stepfather movie, just leaveing theaters at press time, features the barbershop song "My

Father, My Friend, My Dad" by Bill Rashleigh, director of the Research Triangle Park chapter in North Carolina.

The song about fatherly love was used for ironic contrast in this dark tale about a murderous stepfather, a remake that has been a bit more popular with movie-goers than with critics. A snippet of the song is



used in the trailer at *http://tinyurl.com/stepdad*.



TV ads for the new Batman Video Game "Arkum Asylum" on Sony Playstation, Wii and X-Box 360 game consoles feature **The** Perfect Gentlemen singing the voice-over song, "Dem Bones" with customized lyrics. See it at http://tinyurl. com/bbshopdembones



Rupert Hall's nephew better late than never!

Most barbershoppers have heard the story: In 1938, O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall chatted in the lobby of Kansas City's Muehlebach hotel and planned a rooftop barbershop harmony gathering when they returned to Tulsa. The event got filmed and shown on newsreels all over America. The concept caught on light wildfire, and soon our Society was formed and dozens of chapters were springing up all over North America

Men are still getting excited about the idea, such as this Neola, Iowa group that gathered in September to discuss starting a local Society chapter. When long-time barbershopper Bob Brockhoff told these men the O.C./Rupert story, he was the first man who got to tell it while pointing to Rupert's nephew, Traverse Hall, sitting in the back of the room!

The chapter is getting off the ground thanks to Bob, and they're hoping to charter soon. Guess who else's name is on the rolls?



Swipes 'n' Swaps

"New director" ads are free in *The Harmonizer* (first 50 words) to Society chapters. Other ads are \$25 per column inch. Send to harmonizer@barbershop.org.

DIRECTOR WANTED

The **Hernando Harmonizers Chorus** is seeking a director with at least one year experience who is willing to accept the task of leading and improving a group of about 25 dedicated singers. We have two annual shows and compete once a year, generally at a C+ level, and desire to improve to a "B" level chorus. A modest salary is offered. Please contact Jay Gettig, Music VP, at 352-684-5267, jgettig@ tampabay.rr.com.

Music Central, Oklahoma City, 12 time division champs, 1998 SW District Champs, 1999 International top 20, is seeking qualified director to take us to the next level. Contact us at 405-621-5566 or email music.central.okc@gmail.com.

The Visalia Mighty Oak Chorus (DO29) in the heartland of California seeks a director to inspire and enhance the skills and talents of its forty members. To make an entertaining and successful chorus. We have four assistant directors and a music team ready to help. Contact Music VP Bob Peden at tenorbob@ sbcglobal.net.

The **Roanoke Valley, Va. Chapter**, home of the Virginia Gentlemen Chorus, is seeking an enthusiastic male or female director to help us continue to grow numerically and musically. We have 40 active members, placed second in Southern Division

competition, Most Improved & winners of Plateau AAA: we will compete at MAD in Lancaster. Resumes to: Bill Clark, PO Box 1725, Roanoke, Va 24008. Call 540-721-3340 or e-mail barbershopper1@ jetbroadband.com. www.vagents.com.

WANTED TO RENT

World War I uniforms for 40 men for a program in April 2010. We've got 3 or 4 who are REALLY big guys, the rest of us fall into 40 to 44 sizes. Of course, we will pay a reasonable rent and freight to and from Eureka, CA. Please respond to Harvey Raider, President, Humboldt Harmonaires at 707-677-9160 or harvey@penandquilt.com.



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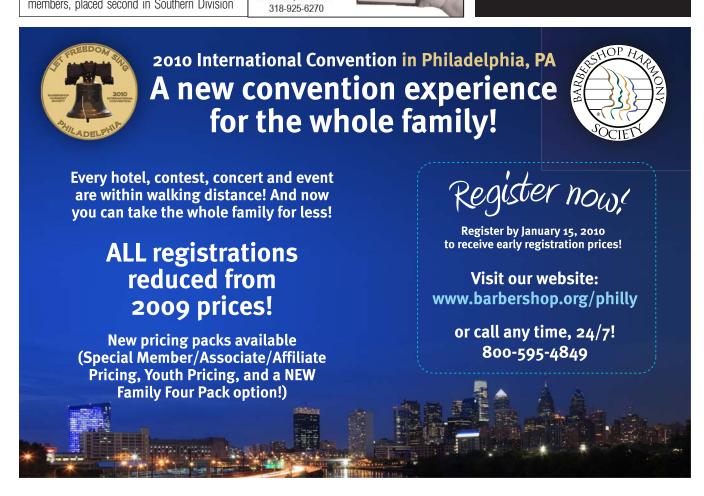
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American Choral **Directors Association** www.acdaonline.org



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AAMBS (Australian Association of Men's Barbershop Singers)

www.aambs.org.au

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BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.singbarbershop.com

Alan Goldsmith: chairman@singbarbershop.com

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DABS (Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.dabs.nl

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FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers) www.fabs.fi

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IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)

www.irishbarbershop.org

Graham Sutton: singjudge@eircom.net

NZABS (New Zealand Association of

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SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)

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Mission

 The Barbershop Harmony Society brings men together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing.

Vision

• To be the premier membership organization for men who love to sing.

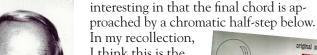


Unique, ear-candy chords from an all-time great

f you didn't know him, you missed one of the most-beloved barbershoppers of all time. Einar Pedersen was a very active composer/arranger and a member of the **New Orleans Chapter**. He was born in 1917 and died Sept. 11, 2005, soon after, but not because of, the Katrina disaster. In our Old Songs library we have two books of his music, and the Society has published at least six of his songs, the most popular of which are

"Back in Dixie Again," "I'd Give the World to be in My Hometown," "I Love That Old Barbershop Style" and "Steamin' Down the River."

This tag, from "I'd Give the World to be in My Hometown," has lots of wonderful barbershop harmonies, but the final measures prove to be most



I think this is the only publication we have that uses that penultimate chord, the VII7. I think you'll find this to be candy for the ears.

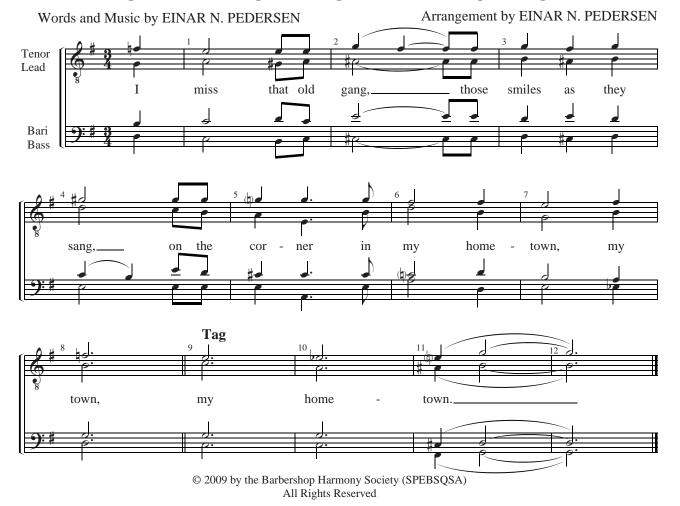
The tenors will love the swipe to the root of the chord on "gang" and the baritones will enjoy the

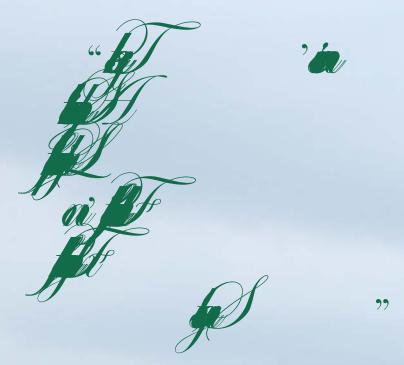
swipe on "sang," but all will enjoy the rich barbershop harmonies. Thanks, Einar.





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