INSIDE: Proposed 2-year chorus rotation plan • 50 years with Harmony Foundation • Crossroads

July/August 2010

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IEMIRAGE





July/August 2010 VOLUME LXX NUMBER 4

Features

1 2 A two-year chorus rotation?

Check out a proposal for international competitors to compete every other year. We want to know what you think! *ED WATSON, CEO, BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY*

15 Harmony Foundation's 50th The Foundation's mission has changed. Learn why

The Foundation's mission has changed. Learn wl more are giving now than ever before. *CLARKE CALDWELL, CEO HARMONY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL*

8 The social networking puzzle The Alexandria Harmonizers have recruited

The Alexandria Harmonizers have recruited dozens of new members thanks to Facebook. Learn how to get boost your online profile, too. *Scipio Garling, Alexandria Harmonizers*

2 Crossroads in perspective

Still relatively young, they've got decades of perspective on what it means to be a barbershopper. *LORIN MAY, EDITOR, THE HARMONIZER*

Crossroads sat down for a chat in Philly, where they outlined some admittedly "selfish" reasons for singing together. Additional hardware didn't make the list.





On the Cover Social networking puzzle Gover by Roger Motzkus, www.motzkusart.com Alexandria Harmonizers photo by Lorin May

Departments

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE Membership Growth: We're off to a good start

3 STRAIGHT TALK

Partial answers to "Where do we go from here?"

LETTERS

Kudos to Jim Henry, Power Principles Series

TEMPO

Storm Front spotted in Philadelphia rains down gold Winners give acceptance speech in 4-part harmony

HARMONY HOW-TO

How to get the most from your chorus coach

30 STAY TUNED

Shakespeare, volcanos, and youth mix it up Service project means even more than expected

MEMBER SERVICE DIRECTORY

Where to find answers

<mark>36</mark> НЕ Т/

THE TAG "Bring Back Those Good Old Days" as sung by the Boston Common Bill Biffle, Society President • bbiffle@barbershop.org

Membership growth: We've made a good start!

s most of you know, our beloved Society has been losing members pretty steadily since the mid-1980s. There are many reasons for this; some out of our control, like the fracturing and complicating of the larger society. Some factors have been within our control, like complacency and systemic self-absorption. (We just joined to sing, didn't we?)

We can't do much about the ways in which the larger world has changed. These changes have been well documented (see Chuck Greene's masterful treatise at *www.21stn7th.com*). But we can change—we are changing—the ways in which our Society responds to this critical problem.

Almost two years ago, I started a dialogue with sev-



We can't do much about how the larger world has changed, but we are changing the ways in which our Society responds to this critical problem.

eral hundred of you about this problem. That discussion produced several more steps in rapid succession: A "summit meeting": the formation of the Membership Growth Task Force; the formation of four smaller, more focused task forces; and, most recently, a final report of the MGTF to the board at our meeting in

Philadelphia. (View the complete report at *www.barbershop*. *org/MGTFfinal*.) Great work by many great people. But we're not finished yet! From the report the board received in Philly, we have determined the next steps.

First, I am appointing a new group, the Strategic Plan Task Force, to take the data generated by the four smaller task forces and find ways we can jump the fence between strategy and tactics; ways we can

help the CEO decide what specific changes need to be made in the way we do business so that we can solve this critical problem.

Second, the four smaller task forces will be reformed and recharged to continue their work in more defined ways—to continue to find ways to help the primary task force (and through it, the CEO) discover the solutions we need.

A great many people have labored hard these past couple of years to bring us to this point. Society Immediate Past President Noah Funderburg has done, and continues to do, a masterful job as chair of the MGTF, aided by the members of the four "task specific" task forces and their chairmen. These men, who each brought a disparate group of committed men together and worked with them to achieve critically important results, are Society President-elect Alan Lamson, Society Executive Vice President-elect Shannon Elswick, and Society Board Members Gary Parker and Alan Wile. These men have the thanks of a grateful Society for the work they have done, and continue to do, on behalf of our members present and future.

So, we have made a start. And we're beginning already to see positive results—we're retaining more members this year than in previous years, and our staff has begun to formulate specific programs to make us even more successful. Increasingly effective work is being done at the district level and many of our chapters have begun to reexamine the quality of life at their meetings to see what they can do to create "compellingly attractive chapter meetings," to use Chuck Greene's very appropriate phrase.

In a few months, my time as your president will be over. But this work will not cease. Every Society leader I know recognizes the critical importance of changing our culture to achieve real long-term growth. Both President-elect Lamson and Society EVP-elect Elswick have been intimately involved with this work from the beginning and are de-

termined to stay the course until success is achieved. Noah Funderburg will continue his work as the chair of the new Strategic Planning



Task Force. Add to these men dozens of other committed, passionate, dedicated barbershoppers who understand the importance of this work and you have the ingredients for certain success. My thanks to all of them for the work to date—and for the work to come, too!

And to those of you who have committed yourselves to reenergizing your chapter meetings—to making the time you spend with your brothers-insong every week more fun and satisfying—thank you, too! All of our efforts at the Society and district level simply won't work if what goes on every week in all of our chapters isn't sufficiently rewarding to get the men back week after week. If things are sizzling at your chapter, thank the guys who're making it happen. If not, why not get some of the boys together and talk about how to make things better? You can do it! I know you can!

Together we can make this happen, brothers. In Harmony!

bbiffle@barbershop.org

Ed Watson, Executive Director • ewatson@barbershop.org

"Where Do We Go From Here?" (part 2)

n my previous Straight Talk column we talked a bit about where we are but didn't answer the question, "Where *are* we going?" The question is about us, and I know I can't answer this question alone. I got some feedback on this section from my last column:

If we continue to lose members, if we continue to wink at guys singing with us but not paying dues; quartets not registering, and guys who take pride in singing music they did not buy, violating copyrights, not paying bills—doing what is in it for them instead of doing what's right, what's in it for Barbershop—then we will not survive. I don't believe any of us want that.

A large part of where we must go is to approach this hobby *together*, with a sense of duty. *We* are preserving

a uniquely American art form. We are responsible for getting this right. We have enough challenges in maintaining and growing legitimacy as an art form; can you imagine if we were *not* the world's largest men's singing organization?

To stimulate membership growth and create a fun-filled environment for our members, we

work hard to keep costs low while delivering as many advantages to our members as we can. Here is a peek at the immediate future in a few areas.

Dues. International headquarters collects all dues, then returns chapters and districts their portion every month, minus a small processing fee. We also arrange for liability insurance for the entire Society, to include all chapter activities and preda-

tor insurance for our youth programs. This collective approach guarantees the lowest rates possible.

We also field more than 3,500 calls per month through our 800-876-SING phone number, not counting direct calls in this age of free (for you) long distance. For years, we've assessed chapters a small fee for this service; however, some chapters are unhappy with paying for it. In January, 2011 we will discontinue this assessment. Of course, this is a worthwhile expense, and we'll have to pay for those 42,000 annual calls some other way. I will ask the Society Board to approve a dues increase to make up for this lost revenue and to cover small increases in costs across the board. We did not raise dues at all in 2010. I believe we can keep this increase under \$5 and accomplish our goals.

Merchandise. Philadelphia was a smashing success on many levels, including Harmony Marketplace sales. We are committed to providing the lowest cost, highest quality merchandise. It is thrilling to see young men wearing barbershop gear as they tag all week. As a non-profit, Marketplace profits help keep dues low and help provide education, adjudication, publication and preservation. We also continue to convert our music sales to electronic media. We currently sell overseas in this manner, reducing time and costs. It is not an easy conversion, but it is worth the effort.

Conventions/competitions. On pages 12-15 of this issue you'll find more on a proposal to take international choruses (not district) from an every-year cycle to a two-year cycle, where they would sit out the year after they have competed on the international stage. Please read it, take the survey and comment via letter, e-mail, or blog. Hundreds of members have so far expressed their opinion, and the results are mildly in favor. The proposal has changed somewhat from its original form, so give it another read and let us know what you think.

Most members loved the schedule changes we made in Philadelphia, especially the extra down time. We doubled attendance at the collegiate contest by moving it to Tuesday, plus many more young singers got a chance to experience the whole week of convention, not just Friday/Saturday. We're interested in your feedback. If you haven't yet told us what you think, take the survey at *www.surveymonkey.com/s/V27WYMC*.

So, where do we go from here?

We go forward, onward, and upward. We continue to implement new programs to help chapters recruit and retain members, like the Learn to Sing program that has worked so well in BABS; and the Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings program (www.21stn7th. *com*), which gets rave reviews. We continue to provide links on our website to help chapters, like President Bill Biffle's "Job One" program guaranteed to grow your chapter (www.barbershop.org/membershipresources), a page that includes many other chapter tools. We look at the results of the Membership Growth Task Force, (posted at www.barbershop.org/MGTFfinal), to decide what it means to each member, chapter, and district. We continue to have fun or die trying, and continue to examine ways to make chapter meetings better, the chapter experience even more fun, and the chorus and quartet sound as expanded as it can be. Then we can proudly invite others to join us.

I must go—a youth "Rock and Roll" choir is coming for a tour. After they've performed, I'll teach them a tag and expose them to the greatest music they will *ever* experience. Work, work, work ... at the greatest job in the world! Thanks for your help and support. Let's get going.

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



a fur Where must we go? A large part is to approach this hobby together with a

sense of duty.

LETTERS

harmonizer@barbershop.org

Kudos to Jim Henry, Power Principles series

Kudos for Jim Henry

ust received my May/June issue. As with every issue, I consume every article and feature. I enjoy Bill Biffle's "President's Page" and Ed Watson's "Straight Talk," along with the featured articles. Jim Henry's article was not only informative, but a great insight into this talented, gifted man.

A number of items stood out, but one of the most important is, "I tend to wince a little when quartets that aren't really interested in singing well still insist on singing in public." I too, have heard quartets sing in public that have difficulty ringing a chord. This does nothing for the image of barbershopping. Dr. Henry discusses the secrets of success as being a process, a long, continual process that cannot be accomplished by one man. It takes a group of men, all dedicated to the same, ultimate goal, with each one willing to put forth the effort necessary to improve their chorus. He adds, "surround yourself with talent by getting coaching from anybody who can teach you some nugget that's new," and "if you do what you've always done,

how do you expect to get any better?" How true. It is up to all of us to perpetuate this truly unique art form. With people like Dr. Henry leading the way, not only talking the talk, but walking the walk, this incredible art form will be around for generations to enjoy.

> JIM WEBER Howard's Grove, Wis.

I want to sincerely thank *The Harmonizer* for the report on Jim Henry. He is able to verbal-

ize the spiritual and religious dimension in Barbershop Harmony that I feel every time I get together with my brothers in harmony! Thank you.

> WIRT SKINNER Canton, N.C.

Jim Henry's humility, faith and honest-to-goodness concern for his fellow chorus members, and their ability to create musical (ministry) magic with the art of four-part barbershop singing, is powerful. Our Society's greatest days are ahead of us, our finest hour is coming. Some will get there ahead of others, but we will all get to that next level. Believe it. Live it. Plan it. Allow your membership to have some ownership in it. It's a journey, not a destination. We have a gift, product, positive experience that is so powerful it will change people's lives. Not just the male singer, but their families, as well. Very few, if any, civic organizations, clubs, etc. have that same firepower to deliver that. Believe it. We're truly blessed.

> MIKE SCOTT Central States District VP of membership

Love the Power Principles

I loved the Power Principles series! It just goes to show that wherever you live on this continent, there are recruitment methods that will work for all of us. Thank you for once again strengthening that bond we share as barbershoppers. My chapter (**Cape Breton, N.S.**) is proud to have been included. And now we feel a special kinship with our fellow chord-ringers in Minnesota and Nevada who were also featured. Your helpful articles should truly make a difference in the months to come as the BHS strives to increase its membership—on both sides of the border.

> HAL HIGGINS Director, Cape Breton, N.S. Chapter

Genesis of Rocky Mountain District corrected

The article about the new Carolinas district says that the Rocky Mountain District was split off from the Far Western District. It was a split-off from the Central States District. Sam Aramian was the "Godfather" of RMD and Lindy Levitt was the "Daddy," and they put in many, many hours of love and labor bringing RMD as the 16th district of our beloved Society. I was the very first international board member from RMD.

> RICHARD "AL" POTTS Summerfield, Fla.

Thanks, Al! The July 1977 issue of The Harmonizer says that RMD was created in from portions of the Central States, Evergreen, Far Western and Southwestern districts. Looks like we all learned something!

HARMONIER

July/August 2010 Volume LXX Number 4 Complete contact info: pages 34-35

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IFMPO Timely news

2010 champs take Philadelphia by storm!

he atmosphere at the Philadelphia Convention Center crackled with anticipation as 29 collegiate quartets, 27 choruses and 51 quartets gave their all at the 2010 International Convention. The applause was like thunder as Storm Front won the quartet competition with great singing and over-the-top humor, after having placed third in '07 and '09. Their finals set, "We've Grown Accustomed to Third Place," followed by a wild



Union hits, shattered modern Presentation-category quartet scoring records. Jeff Selano (T) and Syd Libsack (Bs) from Atlanta, and Jim Clark (L) and Darin Drown (Br) from Denver, will have to grow accustomed to first place!

In chorus competition, California's Westminster **Chorus** presented a touching rendition of "It Only Takes a Moment" and jazzed it up New Orleansstyle with "Mardi Gras March," winning their second straight gold. They set the all-time chorus scoring record (97.7) while narrowly edging the Vocal Majority, who just like last year posted their highest score ever (97.1) on the way to second place.



"car trip" medlev of Bluegrass Student

Last year's collegiate silver medalist Swedish Match won gold this year with "Love Walked In" and "Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey," averaging merely a tenth of a point higher than silver medalist Prestige. Rasmus Krigström (T), Jakob Stenberg (L), Mattias Larsson (Br), and Mathias Roth (Bs)

are all students at Sweden's Stockholm Royal College of Music.

More convention and

contest details will follow in the Sept./Oct. 2010 issue of The Harmonizer.

Membership Growth Task Force report available on *barbershop.org*

The four task forces of the Membership Growth Task Force presented their research to the Society Board at their June meeting in Philadelphia. In it, they outline a strategic approach (best use of financial and human resources) to guide Society staff and provide members with a unifying approach to retaining present members and reaching out to recruit new members. The task forces continue to work in their respective areas to gather data and help staff develop programs and materials. The full report is available at www.barbershop.org/MGTFfinal.

30-year barbershopper dies in plane crash during mercy mission, writes final words

Dr. Jim K. Hall, a member of the Gratiot County, Mich. Chapter, was on one of his frequent mercy missions, at-

tending a patient on a flight to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., when the plane lost power and crashed into Lake Michigan on July 23. In his last moments before the crash, Dr.

Hall thought not of himself but of those he knew would be left behind. He took pen and paper and wrote a note to the loved ones of all the passengers, saying

"10 a.m. Dear all. We love you. We lost power over mid lake Mich. and turning back. We are praying to God that all

will be taken care of. We love you, Jim." He put it in his water-proof medical bag, hoping it would be retrieved. According to family and friends, this was typical of Jim's heart, always thinking of the needs of others before his own.

His service to the Gratiot County chapter included everything from pastpresident to prop-maker to quartet man.

His son, barbershopper James R. Hall, says, "Really, his is the story of so many other barbershoppers-wonderful, dedicated men who just happen to share a harmonious hobby."

Our hearts go out to Dr. Hall's family and friends.

See Fox News video at http://tinyurl. com/jimhall1

Read NPR News story at http://tinyurl. com/jimhall2

Read detailed Detroit Free Press story at http://tinyurl.com/jimhall3



Life member Mitch Miller dies at age 99



Society honorary life member Mitchell William "Mitch" Miller, famed conductor, choral director, television performer and recording executive, died July 31, 2010. In his decades as a highly influential producer and then as host of television's "Sing Along with Mitch"

in the 1960s, Miller helped establish and extend the cultural relevancy of many of "the old songs" beloved by barbershoppers.

Later in his life, Miller hosted two popular PBS specials focused on barbershop harmony. "Keep America Singing" (1994) featured international champs **Acoustix**, **The Ritz**, **Rural Route 4** and the **Southern Gateway Chorus**. "Voices in Harmony: More Keep America Singing" (1996) featured Society champs **The Gas House Gang** and **Marquis**, plus Sweet Adelines Queens **Showtime!** and **Gem City Sweet Adelines Chorus**.

Barbershopper preps for Met Opera debut



Keith Harris, lead of **Voce** quartet and director of New York's **Westchester Chordsmen**, is making his debut at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House this fall.

"The Met" is the most prestigious opera venue in the Americas, and naturally this will be a great boost to Keith's career. The professional opera baritone will be performing in Italian as a Flemish deputy in Verdi's "Don Carlo," which runs Nov. 22 to Dec. 18. Voce placed 9th in in-

ternational competition in Philadelphia and 11th in 2009. A barbershopper since childhood, Keith also performed at Carnegie Hall this spring. Break a leg, Keith! *www.keithharris.net; www.metoperafamily.org*

Meet new PR Manager Melanie Chapman



Melanie joined the Society staff in May as Manager of Marketing and Public Relations, where she creates greater Society awareness and helps chapters and districts become more effective in their PR and marketing efforts.

She got to know many staff members while working in marketing for the firm that relocated many of them to Nashville. She has plenty of past marketing experience in the hotel, banking and real estate industries.

Her real reason for living is music! She fell in love with barbershop while playing Marian Paroo in a community theater production of *The Music Man* several years ago. Melanie studied voice at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and received a bachelor's degree at Indiana University. Melanie has performed in many musicals and operas, written and recorded radio jingles and voice-overs, and performed gigs with a group for 18 years in her native Indiana and in Ohio and Kentucky. She plays piano, guitar, hammered dulcimer and autoharp, and directs a church choir. Reach her at *mchapman@ barbershop.org* or at 800-876-7464 x4137.

Make plans for Vegas Midwinter

Enjoy the 4th Annual International Youth Chorus Festival, Seniors Quartet Contest and much more, all

under one roof, Jan. 25-30, 2011. The contest/show venues will all be at the newly remodeled Riviera Hotel & Casino. No need to ever leave the building, no smoke-filled casino to deal with unless you choose. All hotel rooms will be in the completely renovated tower for \$99 a night all week (no extra per-



son charges). Register at www.barbershop.org/vegas.

Toto, it's like we're not in Kansas (City) anymore!

Everything is new in Kansas City—new Sprint Center Arena, new restaurants, new entertainment venues—all at the fabulous new Power and Light District! If you were there in 2000, it'll be like going from black & white to color for our 2011 International Convention,



July 3–10, 2011. Early-register by Sept. 30 and get first dibs on hotels, most within easy walking distance of the arena.

The **Heart of America Chorus** is thrilled to be hosting their record sixth international convention, and proud that their city has so much to offer. Register online at *www.barbershop.org/kansascity* or call 800-595-4849 anytime, 24/7.

District conventions

0ct. 1-3	Columbus, IN
Oct. 8-10	Mason City, IA
Oct. 1-3	Knoxville, TN
Sept. 24-26	Portland, OR
Oct. 8-10	Bakersfield, CA
Sept. 24-26	Peoria, IL
0ct. 15-17	Lima, OH
Oct. 22-24	Fargo, ND
Oct. 1-3	Milford, DE
Oct. 22-24	Portland, ME
Oct. 29-31	Myrtle Beach, SC
0ct. 15-17	Kingston, ON
Oct. 15-17	Grand Rapids, MI
Sept. 24-26	Layton, UT
Sept. 24-26	Rochester, NY
Oct. 1-3	Plano, TX
Oct. 1-3	Ocala, FL
	Oct. 8-10 Oct. 1-3 Sept. 24-26 Oct. 8-10 Sept. 24-26 Oct. 15-17 Oct. 22-24 Oct. 1-3 Oct. 22-24 Oct. 1-3 Oct. 22-24 Oct. 29-31 Oct. 15-17 Oct. 15-17 Sept. 24-26 Sept. 24-26 Oct. 1-3



CONVENTIONS

2011 KANSAS CITY July 3-10 2012 PORTLAND, ORE. July 1-8 2013 June 30–July 7 2014 LAS VEGAS June 29–July 6 2015 Pittsburgh June 28–July 5 2016 NASHVILLE July 3-10 2017 **MINNEAPOLIS** July 2-9 2018 Orlando July 1-8 2019 SALT LAKE CITY June 30-July 7 MIDWINTER www.barbershop.org/ midwinter 2011 LAS VEGAS Jan. 25-30 2012 TUCSON Jan. 17-22 HARMONY **UNIVERSITY 2011** St. Joseph, Mo. July 31-Aug. 7, 2011

TEMPO

Webby Award winner sings barbershop tag for acceptance speech

here was a wonderful barbershop moment at the prestigious "Webby Awards" in New York City in June. Evan Gregory, long-time friend of barbershop-

ping family Kirk, Kevin and Carl Roose of Oberlin, Ohio, won first place in the Video Remix/Mashup category for his online video series "Auto-Tune the News." In keeping with the requirement that acceptance speeches be no longer than five words, Evan sang the words



"Everything Sounds Better Auto-Tuned" to the tag of "When It's Sleepy Time Down South," joined by wife, Sarah, and brothers Andrew and Michael in four-part harmony. The audience went wild, and the YouTube clip has nearly 300,000 views so far. (Watch at *http:// tinyurl.com/autotune-4*)

New York-based "The Gregory Brothers," as the four

are professionally known, work and perform together both in music and in media. Evan learned tagging from Carl Roose when they were college buddies, and he's been doing it casually ever since.

"Our knowledge of harmony singing or barbershop tags is not limited to what was learned and shared in those long-ago, heady halcyon days," Evan writes. "Nay, we continue to learn and grow and revel in the resolution of

a savory half-diminished 7th like barbershoppers of every age. Keep the Whole World Singing!"

The Webby Awards, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, is the leading international award program honoring excellence on the Internet. See also *www.thegregorybrothers.com* and *www.youtube.com/show/autotunethenews*.

Society briefs

Need help connecting with local

media? You can get a free list of media contact names, snail mail/email addresses, and phone numbers for every newspaper, magazine, radio/TV station and other media in your area. Just call at 800-876-7464 x4137 or e-mail *PR@barbershop*. org and the list will be e-mailed to you in Excel format. For U.S. media, provide your zip code and the mile radius to be included in the search. For Canadian media, list the cities you want to reach. With this list, go to the Resource Center at www. *barbershop.org/resources.html* for tips and tools to make your media presentation more effective.

Realtime retiring after France ... sort of. Tenor Tim Broersma is too busy at work to stay with **Realtime**, leav-



ing the 2005 international champ with only Mark and Tom

Metzger as original members, plus Tim's dad, Doug, singing in place of champion lead John Newell. They'll appear in the Pollifilia festival in Normandy, France this fall, after which Realtime will no longer appear on Society stages—rules require three winners to keep the quartet name. Still, Doug, Mark and Tom aren't through singing together with a new tenor and a new name, they could re-enter the contest cycle any time!

Quartetters: Someone may be looking

for you! Speaking of which ... if you are missing a part or parts for your quartet, try *www.quartetmatchup.com*. It's free! Site produced by barbershopper David Wiener.

American Harmony DVD now available at Harmony Marketplace. The best movie about barbershop ever made was edited by two-time Oscar winner Kate Amend and features OC Times, Max Q, Vocal Spectrum and Reveille over a span of three years in their personal quests for international recognition. \$24.99 at www.harmonymarketplace.com.

Preservation e-Mag now available. Two issues of *Preservation*, published by Society Historian Grady Kerr, are now

available at *www.barbershop.org/history/preservation.html*. (Scroll to the bottom of the page.) To see other barbershop miscellany on Grady's website, see *www.GradyWilliamKerr.com*.

Textbook barbershop now comes with textbook. "Ring to the Name of Rose" helped the Spirit of Phoenix (then the Phoeni-



cians) win the 1972 international crown, and it went over so well they later recorded it. Written by George M. Cohan and arranged by Phoenician Lloyd Steinkamp, the song caught the attention of Sony Records, who in 2006 asked to include it as the first-ever barbershop recording in a multi-CD companion to America's Musical Landscape, a study of American musical styles by Jean Ferris of Arizona State University. Sony was to pay royalties to Lloyd's estate, but his widow, Judy, asked that they instead be paid to the Phoenix Chapter's Youth in Harmony program—a fitting tribute to Lloyd's life of sharing barbershop with youth. Available at college bookstores or at http://tinyurl.com/AMLandscape.

Harmony is Brewing in Seattle

Special BOGO* Offer! Buy one convention registration and get one

50% off!

Friends, old and new, will greet you in Seattle as you take in the sights and sounds of barbershop's best, watch dazzling performances, visit Harmony Bazaar, tour the area's most famous and entertaining landmarks and harmonize to your heart's content. Five days of amazing competitions and educational events await you.

Sweet Adelines International welcomes BHS members and guests! Join us in Seattle, October 19-23, 2010, for the 64th convention and competition. Register today!

Go BOGO* Sweet Adelines Style! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime savings offer

Register for convention before September 15, 2010, to get BOGO*. That's right, buy one registration and get one for half price. Invite a friend, relative or spouse. **Two ways to get BOGO*:**

- 1. Call 800.992.7464 or 918.622.1444.
- **2.** Visit www.sweetadelineintl.org and download the convention registration form. Mail or fax the form back to international headquarters.

*The BOGO discount offer is applicable only on full-price member registrations (\$200) and full-price non-member registrations (\$215). If a full-price member and full-price non-member register together with the BOGO offer, the lowest priced ticket will be discounted by half.

seatt

2010

Competitor registrations and Convention Assistant registrations are not eligible for the BOGO discount.



ou put a lot of thought into who would be the best available coach to help your chorus. You decided who had the right mix of skills and would develop the best rapport with the group. You likely arranged for transportation, housing and meals, and even planned expressions of gratitude. It sure would be great to arrange things so that the coaching session is of the most possible benefit to everyone: The director, the music team and to the chorus. And could it be a lot of fun too?

Choose the right attitude

Fortunately, one of the most important things to do is also one of the things most under your control: Choosing to have a great attitude, one of anticipation of useful things to happen, one of respect and cooperation, is most useful. The ambiance of deciding to do great things together, make progress, and solve problems is just the thing to set everyone up for success and a good time.

Set clear expectations in advance

It's important to be clear about the type of coaching experience you're after. Is the coach expected primarily to "fix" what you're committed to? Is he to explore possibilities? Do you particularly want choreo blocking, arrangement of the riser placement for better sound, a focus on skill building to strengthen vocal tools, or some other definable benefit? The best coaches will analyze, give feedback, make recommendations, try new things, and have an overall vision for where the group could be based on who they are and where they want to go. By all means, allow the coach the latitude to take you to where you have never been before!

Because the director and other leaders will be the ones to continue to work with the group into the future, it's very useful to speak to the coach about the need and desire for special attention to identified concerns. Ask for attention, invite a lot of feedback, and *expect to change*. Relax about your image and attend to specific behaviors. Be focused and intent and make a great effort to move your attitude, your behavior and your knowledge to a new level.

Charlie Metzger Past Chair, Chorus Director Development Committee cometzger@ shaw.ca

Acquire learning behavior

Deep learning that results in greater skill and future unconscious competency is different from the relaxed, nonchalant, often careless way many of us are accustomed to practice. To really make changes that stick is difficult and requires a struggle. Think of a toddler learning to walk and persisting through fall after fall. Choose to be really intent and constantly attentive—active, almost aggressive, in your learning. This cannot be done over a protracted period, so pace yourself and be sure that breaks come frequently when the intensity is high.

Choose the appropriate point of view. To learn new actions, moves, singing techniques and the like, keep your point of view outside yourself. Watch yourself learn it; remain in a *dissociated* state. To move more deeply into the emotion and meaning of the song, keep your point of view inside yourself, in an *associated* state. From there you can access your emotions, your memories, your sense of being one with the song and the singers around you.

Manage your fragilities

Be easy on yourself and accepting of mis-tries, becoming more and more targeted on your goal of the moment. Common responses to learning difficulties include frustration, negative self-talk, even self-directed anger. These block learning rather than aiding it. Your unconscious competencies are legion. Allow them to work for you. Positive selftalk is an important tool. Keep yourself focused on the task, expect mistakes and notice the small gains that eventually result in large, permanent gains.

As singers, we are tempted to notice how competent we are in comparison to others around us and take it easy. But that doesn't allow us to gain skill. We must be more discerning and increase our awareness. Move more precisely, sing more eloquently, feel more deeply or with great variety and nuance. Reach toward standards of singing and performance far greater than your own.

Notice little victories and strive for more of them. Make coaching an opportunity for effort-directed improvement. Remember, improvement is *aggressive*. Good enough is *passive* and not good enough!

Welcome repetition

Repetition is an opportunity to gain awareness and ability. Only repetition results in talent—only neurons that fire repeatedly and intensely build pathways of skill. Struggling to improve is the only way to progress and make a permanent gain.

It's work—and it's fun!

It sure sounds like having a coach is a lot of work if it's going to be useful. True? True!

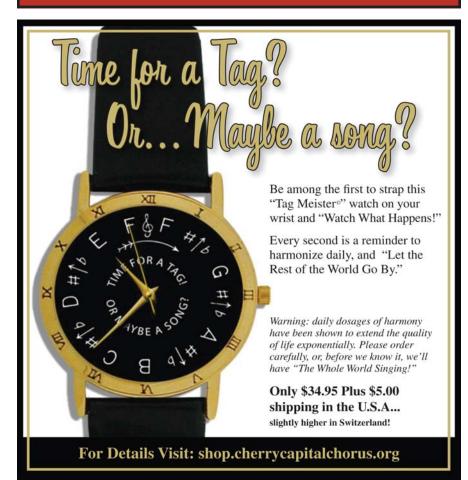
And getting good at something is exciting, isn't it? And gratifying? True again!

Exciting? Gratifying? Sounds like fun! Let's have more fun!



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A 2-year chorus rotation?

Weighing the pros and cons

The Spirit of Phoenix (shown in 2008) is one of many top choruses that regularly sits out from international competition voluntarily. The Society Contest and Judging Committee has recommended a plan that would mandate a year off after competing in international competition, almost doubling the number of eligible choruses.

At the Society's request, for more than a year, members of the Society Contest & Judging Committee (SCJC) have been investigating an idea that would nearly double the number of choruses eligible to compete on the international stage—dividing the most talented Society choruses into two equal pools to compete on alternating years. The suggestion was proposed by multiple sources,

with arguments and anecdotal support compelling enough to request the SCJC research.

There is a precedent for this plan: A two-year rotation model used by Sweet Adelines since the early 1970s is overwhelmingly popular among its members. Of course, we are the Barbershop Harmony Society, with different traditions, desires and expectations. Such a substantial change to the Society's chorus contest structure should not be entered into lightly, and it is by no means certain that the proposed change will go forward. This article:



Ed Watson CEO, Barbershop Harmony Society *ewatson@* barbershop.org

- summarizes a proposal that has been recommended by the SCJC.
- outlines the major arguments for and against the proposed plan.
- summarizes the research, polling and changes that have occurred so far.
- shows you where to go for more information and where to make your views known.

Highlights of the proposed two-year rotation The Society Contest and Judging Committee has formulated a transition plan that would create two equivalent "flights" of competitors, one for 2012 (Portland) and one for 2013 (Toronto). Proposed dates are the committee's recommendations and are subject to change.

- Qualification for the 2011 contest in Kansas City will follow current rules, i.e. based on 2010 Fall District Contest scores.
- All choruses scoring 81 or higher during the 2010 district chorus contests (or if they do not compete in fall 2010, based on 2010 international scores) will be divided into two groups based on a set formula.
- One group will receive invitations to qualify for slots in the Portland 2012 International Contest. The other group will receive invitations to qualify for slots in the Toronto 2013 International Contest. (Requests from choruses will be honored to the areatest extent possible.)
- These will only be invitations to qualify for international competition on specific years; invited choruses must still post high enough qualifying scores at their Fall District Contests held 8-9 months prior.
- The remaining international slots for 2012 will be filled based on 2011 Fall District Contest scores. Remaining international slots for 2013 will be based on 2012 Fall District Contest scores.
- Districts are guaranteed at least one representative every year.
- All choruses that compete in an international contest on a given year will be ineligible to qualify for the next year's international contest.
- All choruses are eligible to compete in district contests for score and for district championships in any year, regardless of international eligibility.
- Any chorus that didn't compete at international on a given year—no matter what the reason—will be eligible to qualify for the next year's international contest.
- International champs still sit out two years, effectively switching from A to B rotation.

Go to www.barbershop.org/2year for a detailed explanation of the proposed transition plan, including a hypothetical A/B rotation based on 2009 district and international scores.

Just what are we talking about?

Currently, our champion choruses are prohibited from competing in international contests for the ensuing two years, making the third year following their championship their next opportunity to compete. This gives them some breathing room and allows other choruses to "step in" and "step up." For many years, the **Vocal Majority**

> and the Masters of Harmony would each win in their respective year, and a third chorus (Westminster Chorus, Ambassadors of Harmony, Alexandria Harmonizers, New Tradition Chorus) would win when these two choruses were not competing. The proposal being discussed is somewhat similar, but for all competitors, not just the champions.

> Simply put, if you were to compete and make it to the international stage, you would not be eligible to compete at international the following year. You may take the year to recover, or to build your war chest for the following year, or to do something different like travel, but you are not permitted to compete at the international level. You may still compete at the district level if you so desire.

> Under this proposal, a chorus that competes in Portland in 2012 would not be eligible to compete again until Las Vegas in

Reactions to the proposal so far

2014. Toronto in 2013 would host a different group of choruses, none of which competed in Portland. A proposed formula would ensure the 2012 and 2013 fields were equally strong.

Potential advantages of a two-year rotation

Proponents of the two-year rotation plan believe it may address many needs among Society chapters and individual barbershoppers:

Increases district participation in international qualifying contests. There has been more than a 20% drop since 1996 in the number of choruses appearing in district contests to qualify for international. There is some statistical evidence that choruses capable of achieving international qualifying scores skip these district contests because one or two other higher-scoring district choruses are expected to win any available international berths. Were outcomes no longer perceived as a foregone conclusion, more chapters may be inspired to vie for open slots. If these "on the cusp" chapters believed the price they must pay to improve would now be rewarded, more may be motivated to acquire the resources and recruit the additional members needed to excel at the next level.

Relieves financial burdens on chapters and individuals. The time commitment and costs associated with preparing for an international contest can be difficult for active chorus members to meet every year, and could be a deal-breaker for some potential members. A year off would ease financial and scheduling expectations, which could improve member satisfaction, recruiting and retention.

Creates incentives for a more balanced chapter experience. A year off may reduce "two-song syndrome" (where chapters constantly refine contest packages at the expense of repertoire) and increase incentives for greater variety during chapter meetings. More time could be devoted to non-contest repertoire, fund-raising, membership growth, and on improving their community profile. The two-year layoffs for international champions may help explain their multi-faceted chapter strengths and long-term staying power. Regular one-year layoff may similarly affect other international competitors.

Boosts international attendance and revenues. Those who attend international conventions tend to love the experience and want to return; yet, the pool of potential attendees has been shrinking. Lower convention profits also mean less funding to apply to the Society's non-contest needs. A broader talent pool at the international contest would equal a broader pool of first-time attendees who can catch the "bug" and return again. A higher number of family and supporters could likely afford to accompany competitors bi-annually than can afford to

A committee composed of C&J members, judges, district officers and Society Events committee members began studying a two-year plan in 2009. They generated a system by which two alternating pools of roughly equal talent could be created and investigated the potential advantages and disadvantages of such a plan. They then e-mailed details to directors of the Society's top-scoring choruses and to district officers. Each group was asked nine questions related to the proposal. Each group was presented with an earlier proposed model, in which choruses would have about 20 months to prepare after qualifying for an international contest. (Based on negative feedback, this element was later dropped.) In response to the earlier model:

Chorus directors: 24 of 45 responded. When asked whether a two-year rotation would be a positive move for the Society, 58% agreed, 29% were neutral, 13% disagreed. Possibly related, 75% reported financial pressures among members due to attending international every year, 17% were neutral, and 8% reported no financial pressure.

District leaders: 32 of 63 responded. When asked whether it would be a good move for the Society, 41% agreed, 25% were neutral, 34% disagreed. However, when asked whether their district would see increased participation due to more openings for international competitors, 28% agreed, 25% were neutral, 47% disagreed.

After reviewing the C&J committee findings (details available at *www.barbershop.org/2year*) at their January 2010 meeting, the Society Board of Directors asked the committee to continue investigating the two-year chorus rotation. A brief description of the proposed plan appeared on page 8 of March/April 2010 issue of *The Harmonizer* and pointed readers to details and a poll available on the Society's blog at *www.barbershophq.com/?p = 1310*.

barbershopHQ.com. By July 2010, the post regarding the plan had generated a lively discussion with 183 comments. The unscientific poll (the self-selected sample was dominated by current international competitors) had logged 547 total votes:

- Overall, 61% were in favor, 39% not in favor
- 304 votes came from members of currently competitive international choruses, 51% were in favor, 49% against
- Among 89 polled who believe a rule change could put international competition within their chapter's reach, 87% were in favor, 13% against.

do so annually, possibly boosting overall crowd sizes.

Increases member enjoyment at international conventions. International chorus competitors typically have limited time to enjoy the week due to extra rehearsals, mandated curfews and other constraints. Off years will give these proudly fanatical barbershoppers the rare opportunity to attend all contest sessions, enjoy more tagging on more evenings, and generally savor the casual pleasures at and around international conventions. Chorus contest fans may also enjoy seeing new groups each year and may be less inclined to skip years because "it is mostly the same groups every year."

Multiplies creativity. Competitive choruses that are in an off year may find that watching all the other choruses (currently impossible for most competitors) may give them a better sense of creative possibilities and help spur them to greater heights.

Potential disadvantages of a two-year rotation

Of course, not all Society members are in favor of a twoyear rotation. Current international competitors and district officers in particular have expressed concerns that they want to see resolved.

Lowers attendance at district competitions? Not all District leaders are convinced that the proposal will increase participation enough at fall contests. They worry that their biggest and best chorus may skip their fall contest every other year, harming atten-

el 30th The Spirit of Syracuse Chorus **Proudly Presents:** Featuring 2010 International Silver Medalists Caturday, October 30th Eagle Hill Middle School Manlius, NY Afterglow to Follow with Food & Entertainment! Advance cale SPIRITOFSYRACUSE.COM 315 492-2712

dance and district finances. The core of the concern is whether "off-year" chorus members will have enough incentives to participate. For example, could districts allow an "off-year" chorus to compete in the fall for the district championship? Could an "off-year" chorus

be avoidable.

number of open slots.

host the fall contest, give a headliner

performance, sing away the trophy,

put on master classes, or all of the

above? Many additional options are

still available for exploration, but

this concern remains a major item

on the table. In any case, a feared

drop in fall contest attendance may

Why mandate what can be done vol-

untarily? While many top choruses

already skip years voluntarily, many of

their members don't want rules changed

to mandate a year off. In the end, this

becomes a question of balancing their concerns against those of "on the cusp"

choruses, who always have a mandated

year off because current rules restrict the

Loss of momentum? Some members

of top choruses suggest that momentum

may be lost if they skip every other year, or question why medalist choruses

are not exempt from this proposal.

All options are still on the table, but

this concern must be weighed against

concerns of choruses seeking to start

whatever momentum could be gener-

ated by a realistic shot at international

competition. Again, note that interna-

tional champions typically come back

in improved form after their longer

Watering down the field? Today's

"on the cusp" choruses indeed average

slightly lower scores and fewer members

than the current field. Some contend

this proposal would reduce the number of A-level choruses performing on a

given year by half, backfilling their

numbers with current B-level choruses

and thereby lowering contest quality

and prestige. This is a valid concern,

as long as it doesn't include potentially

two-year contest layoffs.

Tell us what you think

A link to a detailed survey regarding the plan is available at www.barbershop.org/2year. Shortly after this article is published, the survey link will also be sent to all members/Associates who have an e-mail address registered with the Society. (Non-Internet connected members can request a printed copy from their chapter secretaries, who can input answers on their behalf.) You must be a Society member or Associate to take the survey. Public discussion of the latest proposal will take place at www.barbershopHQ.com/p=1491. Survey closes on October 15, 2010. misleading math and assumptions. For example, any given year's line-up already excludes many top groups that sit out voluntarily—"cutting that number in half' is not wholly accurate. More importantly, the hope is that the small gap between today's present and

"on the cusp" international competitors will close once the incentives of international competition take effect on newly motivated choruses.

There may be precedent in looking back on when the Sweet Adelines instituted their two-year plan by placing all "second tier" choruses in the same rotation. Our sisters report that within a few years, the weaker choruses had closed the gap and that both rotations are now strong. While our Society's proposed plan creates equivalently weighted rotations from the outset, we could likewise soon forget which groups once were "second tier." If more choruses have incentives to reach for higher performance goals, wouldn't that increase the number of high-level choruses at the district and international levels?

What's next?

Based on its study and feedback, the SCJC has recommended transition to a two-year plan. Their recommendation requires Society Board approval, which will consider member feedback. A decision will likely take place in less than a year:

- If the Society Board accepts this plan at or before its Jan. 2011 meeting, rotations will be based on Fall 2010 district scores, or choruses averaging an 81 score or higher in Philadelphia.
- If the Society Board accepts this plan at its June 2011 meeting, rotations will be based on Fall 2011 district scores, or choruses averaging an 81 score or higher in Kansas City.

The sooner the decision is made, the more the affected chapters can begin planning their calendar for whichever flight they are placed.

Harmony Foundation at its 50th anniversary

Harmony Foundation President/CEO Clarke Caldwell discusses how the Foundation's future is now intertwined with the Society's future

Part 1 in a 2-part series

What percentage of Society members are currently contributors to Harmony Foundation?

It's about 7%. I'm surprised it is that low. When I tell people, most respond the same way. I think the disconnect is the overwhelming passion about the impact barbershop has on people's lives, and yet that has not translated into "giving back" through charitable contributions. Can you imagine what could happen if everyone invested just the cost of one trip to McDonalds each month? This is the level where our youth programs need tremendous growth in support.

The bright spot, however, is the very generous level of support and commitment that is growing rapidly from a group of caring and visionary individuals. Fifty-two percent of these went from non-contributors to members of the President's Council [annual donations of \$1,000 or more]. The pace of this program is record-setting. We've actually had less success in asking for smaller gifts.

That's remarkable! Why are those who give to the Foundation starting off at the major gift level?

With larger gifts, we need to sit down and explain—the contributors have to understand the shifts in Harmony Foundation and the Society. We have greater success with those we've been looking in the eye, helping them become part of that dream. They've been pleased to give and to become difference makers. The people who contribute financially are often the the most solid members of the Society. They enjoy and have invested in it so much that they are getting more out of it than just what they are getting from their chapter on a weekly basis. They're the least likely to say, "I quit, I don't like barbershop anymore."

Lorin May Editor, The Harmonizer harmonizer@ barbershop.org

You mentioned shifts in the Foundation and the Society. Could you clarify?





Well, 50 years ago, the Foundation started out as a way for the Society to hold real estate tax free. Then after a few years, with the Institute of Logopedics (Heartspring), we were raising money for an outside entity. With changes to Heartspring, a decision was made to change the relationship. Small grants were made to chapters and districts and to other outside organizations.

Seven years ago, we took a sharp turn. The focus is now the charitable activities the Barbershop Harmony Society needs for growth, to respond to unmet need within our own organization. That need has been growing consistently for the last 20 years.

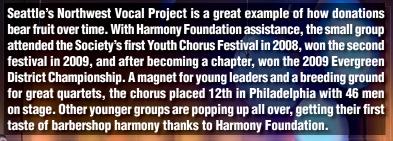
What are these unmet needs within the Society?

The former Society financial model was unsustainable. We're not able to support the Society on an annual basis based on dues, profit from convention, Harmony Marketplace. Members didn't used to think the Society had to act like a charitable organization—they thought dues

If people keep getting fewer services, we'll keep getting fewer people.

would pay for everything. But membership has declined steadily for 25 years, so the Society has had shrinking resources while the cost of everything has been going up. The Society's ability to act in a healthy and vibrant way has gone down year after year. If people keep getting fewer services, we'll keep getting fewer people.

We need to reverse that spiral. Charitable giving will have to fill that gap. Culturally, most Society members and Associates don't understand the need or the benefits to giving charitably to their own organization—investing in the growth, the preservation that we speak of so passionately. And yet, we fail to realize that this preservation takes money, it takes intent, it takes funds, it takes





Of course, many know that Harmony Foundation underwrites the Society's entire youth program, including indirect expenses. I would call that an "outreach and growth" program—the next level we're hoping to fund—except that Youth in Harmony is not a recruiting program. Although we believe YiH will help the Society's long-term prospects, the vision is to get more youth

professional people who can lead the preservation in a very strategic way in the future. In the past seven years, we have raised and have given to the Society a little more than \$2.5 million toward underwriting their youth programs and externally-focused programs. In the past, that would have gone to someone else.

Did the Barbershop Harmony Society give up its charitable mission after Heartspring?

I think it's transferred its charitable mission to the core business of the Society by supporting singing in schools—we also want youth to learn barbershop harmony both in schools and in programs sponsored by the Society. Additionally, we've helped hundreds of chapters improve by sending their directors to a week of Directors College. singing, and singing more barbershop harmony.

Specifically, how is the Foundation helping youth?

Last year, we helped fund the 39 YiH Workshops for more than 7,000 students, the 16 Harmony Explosion camps for 1,500 students, helped fund the international collegiate contest, and brought 11 choruses with approximately 300 youth to the last Youth Chorus Festival—we paid for the hotel and registration of every participant. That financial help seems to be the catalyst to getting many of these choruses to form and to plan to come to Midwinter.

For a non-recruiting program, Youth in Harmony is bringing in a lot of young, new members. I understand that 625 of the Society's new members last year [22%] were under age 25! Some of these youth choruses

THE CAPENOS CHALLENGE

This Challenge was created through the generosity and farsightedness of one man, a man who wants to give back to the organization that means so much to him.



The President's Council is the flagship program of annual giving to Harmony Foundation International. Formed more than six years ago, it has been the catalyst for record breaking fundraising goals and has completely funded all the Society's youth programs, as well as:

- Brought a focus and emphasis to major gifts for annual support
- Cast vision and raised the sights of members showing what a major donor program can accomplish

Warren Capenos has provided \$250,000 and challenges everyone else to come together to match it. He's counting either donations by new President's Council members or increased donations by current President's Council members. The challenge started in Philadelphia, and as of this writing, just five weeks later, we are at \$57,591.

JOIN US



from Midwinter have become permanent Society choruses, one of them is already a district champion. These groups are attracting young, high-quality singers who are crazy about barbershop har-

mony. This is just three years into the Festival. When we look to the future with youth, we're not having to wait too long for results.

You said something about the "outreach and growth" level of giving—

—that level doesn't exist yet, where we're expanding the organization horizontally to the public. We're looking to fund the Society's "Four on the Road" program, where a young, full-time quartet will spend a year singing at schools and colleges, a cappella festivals and other big events, exposing tens of thousands of a cappella singers and fans to quality barbershop harmony. The "TAG Team" will consist of full-time Society employees who live in the field to strengthen existing chapters and start new ones.

Culturally, most Society members and Associates don't understand the need or benefits of giving charitably to their own organization—investing in the growth, the preservation.

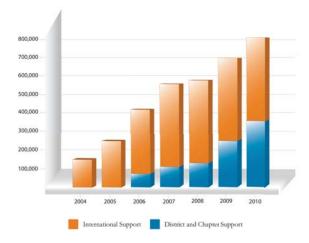
Those will need to be funded 100 percent by the Foundation, over and above the current level of giving. Those programs will together cost \$750,000 a year.

It's one thing to start them, but they'll need to be funded year after year, sustained in the future and likely grown. That will be part of the Foundation's annual fundraising program, as well as all of the current program. Once we do that, we can look to capital asset improvement.

Those sound like great programs, but we've got so many more questions we'll have to go to a part 2.

Looking forward to it. I believe that what the Society and the Foundation have to offer in our society, in the world, is something that no one else can offer. These dreams are made a reality because of the generosity and vision of many contributors.

www.harmonyfoundation.org



In 2009, Harmony Foundation gave \$450,000 to the Barbershop Harmony Society, part of the \$2.5 million total projected to be given between 2004-2010. Funds have covered the Society's youth program in its entirety and boosted the musical level in hundreds of So-

ciety chapters via Director's College scholarships. In 2009, Harmony Foundation gave an additional \$178,000 to Society chapters and districts as part of a projected \$790,000 projected be given between 2006-2010, thanks to the Foundation's Donor's Choice program. Donors can earmark up to 30% of their donation to be given to a chosen district or chapter.





Scipio Garling is the Alexandria Harmoninzers' Vice-President for Marketing, and recipient of a 2010 Outstanding Achievement Award from PROBE "for his use of new technology

and social networking tools to strengthen and improve the chapter administratively, musically, and in its outreach to many audiences."

Want to know how about how to market your chorus? Go to Harmocast.com and listen to Episode #10 of the Harmonizers podcast, "Marketing 101 for your Barbershop Chorus."



Get bigger audiences, find more potential

It's not what you know, it's who you know ... at least, when it comes to becoming a barbershopper.

Most men don't become barbershoppers through research or even direct exposure to the style but through knowing a friend in barbershop. I was familiar with barbershop as a lad; my father used to get the recordings of the International Quartet Contest and we'd often enjoy them together. Still, even when looking to join a singing group as an adult, I never thought to seek out barbershop. No, I didn't think to join barbershop until I took my visiting father to a local barbershop show ... and ran into an old friend who was performing on stage.

My friend insisted I join him at rehearsal,

The Alexandria Harmonizers added 23 new members this year, largely thanks to social networking initiatives that have brought many previously unknown potential members into their chapter's orbit.

WORKING

members—and effective ads are cheap

and sure enough, the fun and friendliness of the men I met convinced me to join. I liked barbershop, sure; but I liked being a barbershopper even more. It wasn't simply an artistic connection, it was a social one.

Personal connections—who you know—is the mostly likely hook for someone to get involved in barbershop. That's the power of social networking, and there are new Internet tools you can use to harness its power to grow your chapter.

Create a Fan Page for your group on Facebook

The most popular social networking site on the Internet is Facebook. It's like a giant bulletin board where you can update people on what you're doing through notices, messages, photos, and invitations. Many chapters—such as the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, the **Ambassadors of Harmony**,

Dos and Don'ts for Facebook Fan Pages Don't

 Post regularly. As a general rule of thumb, post at least weekly but not daily. It depends on the level of activity of your chorus.

Do

- Post multi-media. Links to relevant websites, photos, and videos are a must to break up the monotony of prose-only posts.
- Post positively. Save the grousing for the Board meeting, and be consistently upbeat in your posting.
- Befriend other groups. You lose nothing by supporting other barbershoppers and you gain much.



- Don't be too serious. On occasional wacky status update or slyly amusing caption to a chorus photo helps humanize your group and gives it character.
- Don't be all about you. Unless you have an overwhelming number of your activities to post about, take the time to congratulate and praise other groups when appropriate.
- Don't talk to yourself. Remember that the goal is reach fans, new friends, and potential patrons and members. Don't think of social networking as an inhouse newsletter, it's your free air-time with the public.
- Don't forget to advertise. To keep growing, remember to regularly encourage your friends to promote your fanpage among their friends as well. That's the power of social networking!

the Masters of Harmony, Toronto Northern Lights, Voices of Gotham, and the Westminster Chorus—are on Facebook. Their Fan Pages serve as an adjunct to their regular websites, and allow other Facebook users to become fans and follow their activities, generating buzz among potential patrons and members.

If you visit the Alexandria Harmonizers Fan Page on Facebook, for example, you'll see that we use:

• "status updates" to communicate with our

fans

The big boys are networking Number of Friends on Facebook (as of July) for the choruses competing at the 2010 International

- 1. 3485 - Westminster
- 2. 2116 - Alexandria Harmonizers
- 3. 2087 - [Ambassadors of Harmony]
- 4. 1387 - [Masters of Harmony]
- 831 Midwest Vocal Express 5.
- 6. 667 - Circle City Sound
- 7. 480 - The Alliance
- 463 Voices in Harmony 8.
- 408 Brothers in Harmony 9.
- 10. 360 Toronto Northern Lights
- 11. 322 Pathfinder Chorus
- 12. 272 Music City Chorus
- 13. 254 NW Vocal Project
- 14. 249 Cottontown Chorus
- 15. 221 Vocal Majority
- 16. 218 Mountaintown Singers
- 17. 166 New Tradition
- 18. 158 Heart of America
- 19. 158 Central Standard
- 20. 154 Sound of Illinois
- 21. 112 Downeasters
- 22. 102 Big Apple Chorus
- 23. 64 One Voice
- 24. 54 Vocal Agenda
- 25. 29 Sound of the Rockies
- 26. 00 Senate-aires

To put this in scale barbershoppers will more readily understand, the Facebook Medalists (with 'scores') are:

Gold: Westminster (97.7) Silver: Alexandria Harmonizers (88.0) Third: Ambassadors of Harmony (87.6) Fourth: Masters of Harmony (82.8) Fifth: Midwest Vocal Express (78.8)

and share "inside" info about what goes on at our rehearsals

- Facebook photo and video albums to share images of the chorus at work and play
- Specific "Event" pages to invite people to our concerts, guest nights, and other activities

As your members and patrons become fans on your Fan Page, all *their* friends can see that they are your fans as well. A couple of clicks and they can become your fans, too, giving you exposure to an ever-widening group of interested people.

Become our fan and you can personally experience how Facebook is used to keep people interest in your chapter!

When we created our Fan Page at the start of 2009, it only had a handful of fans (some of the younger guys in the chapter).

Now it has more than 2,100 fans (including friends in Sweden, Japan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Spain, Greece, Ireland, South Korea, Egypt, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Bahrain, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, and Germany) who follow our activities. That's the power of social networking on line.

Create on-line ads

If yours is like most chapters, it's taken recruitment ads in local papers, with limited results. That's why some chapters are advertising on line. Internet advertising has several advantages: you get wide exposure, you can target your ad to particular types of people, and usually you pay nothing unless someone 'clicks-through' on vour ad to reach the event vou are advertising.

Many popular sites and search engines, like Google, offer advertising, but they all work similarly. You use an

What if you don't know where to start?

Don't feel alone if you break out in a sweat at the thought of using Facebook or Twitter! It's just a matter of learning how to use a new tool—just like you learned how to use e-mail. Your investment of a little time will be rewarded when you book more concerts, attract bigger audiences

and eventually get more members. Bob Fichtner (from the Midwest Vocal Express), assisted by Montana Jack, has written an article entitled Social Media for Barbershop Quartets and Choruses. Bob and Montana explain

how to reach more people and target younger generations. Don't be afraid! These step-by-step instructions will have you up and running and

reaping the benefits in no time! http://tinyurl.com/BHSSocial

on-line form to create a small ad with some short text and a photo; that ad becomes a link to some other internet page for what you are advertising. Let's take an ad on Facebook as an example. In preparation for a Guest Night in February, we created a Guest Night "Event" on our Face Page, then for two weeks we ran a Facebook ad that linked to it. The ad was seen by 207,000 people, 37 of whom clicked-through to the Event page. Total cost: \$20.48. We've used such ads to promote our Guest Nights, our shows, Singing Valentines, and our Youth Harmony Festival. Since our various Facebook ads started they've been seen over 16 million times and prompted more than 5,000 people to check us out. Can you say that about your last ad in the local paper?

Since we started using social networking this last year, we've added 23 new members. That's more than in any year since 1995 and a 25% increase in our membership. Naturally, our music program and chapter spirit is what gets men to join and keeps them involved. But you do have to get them in the door first, and on-line advertising through social networking sites can help. There are

Social networking success for other choral groups

Many choral groups outside of the Society are already using on-line resources for self-promotion. Chorus America, a national membership organization for independent a cappella choruses, surveyed its members choruses and discovered that:

- 68% of member choruses currently use social networking tools and 17% plan to start soon
- Nearly all the respondents currently using social networking tools use Facebook (96%), followed byTwitter (26%) and blogs (23%); MySpace and LinkedIn were also used, but to a much lesser extent
- · Members primarily use social networking tools to promote concerts and events (94%), communicate with current subscribers and donors (76%), attract new audiences (74%), and recruit new singers (54%); many responders also use social networking to keep in touch with alumni of their chorus
- Respondents generally view social networking as effective; Facebook received the highest average rating of 4 out of 5; blogs, Twitter, and LinkedIn all received average ratings between 3.5 and 4; MySpace trailed with a 2.7 average rating

some tricks to making an effective social network ad and not spending too much doing it, such as targeting the ads geographically. The online form you use to create your ad will help you understand those options, but if you want further advice feel free to contact us for help at *harmonizersnewsletter@gmail.com*.

Be seen on screen

Another way you can use the power of social connection on the internet is to post videos. They can be clips of your chapter having some fun, singing a polecat, or even your director just issuing a personal invitation to check out the chapter. Modern devices like Flip Camcorders make it easy to record and upload videos to YouTube, from which they can be posted to your Fan Page on Facebook or sent out in e-mails to friends. The Alexandria Harmo-

Alexandria Harmonizers, for example, have created on-line "commercials" for our membership recruitment and our Singing Valentines program. Perhaps barber-

shop can be explained in mere words, but being a bar-

bershopper cannot; it must be perceived directly and experienced personally. In reaching out for new members and patrons, one clip is worth a thousand blurbs.

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Cook on all burners

The Internet is not a replacement for traditional outreach methods (such as flyers or personal invites), it's a complement. The Internet is just a multiplier that magnifies your own willingness to reach out to new people, to cultivate a fan base, and to present your chapter as interesting to the public. It does no good to get people in the door if you haven't made your chapter a welcoming and enjoyable place to be, so focus as much on being a gracious host as on sending out invitations.

And if all these ideas seem daunting

because you aren't familiar with the technology, just ask help from almost anyone in the 20 to 40 age range; they will be able to help. As one of our younger members pointed out to us, "Everyone under the age of 30 has a Facebook account."

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For Crossroads ..

MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Crossroads sang with their wives and children plus the Ambassadors of Harmony for the finale of their swan song presentation in Philly. It's far from the first time the far-flung families have all been together, and it will be far from the last.

.. barbershop really is all about family

Three sang barbershop with their fathers, three shared quartet gold with a brother—yet Crossroads may be their most family-centered quartet ever!

Crossroads, the 2009 international quartet champ, sat down for a chat in Philly. Fred Farrell, Mike Slamka and Jim Henry all joined the Society before the age of 12, joining their fathers in the family hobby. All three belonged to choruses and were directed by their fathers at some point. Brandon Guyton discovered barbershop harmony at age 15 and now most of his family shares the obsession. They had a lot to say.

Advantages of multi-generational barbershopping

Fred: I credit barbershopping for a lot of my social development. At a very young age I was going to barbershop contests. I always remember the impact that meeting Bill from the **Suntones** had on me when I was 10 years old. We're more aware of the impact we might have than we once were.

Mike: Just learning from a young age, coming to rehearsals every week, having that perspective, going to the shows, waiting in line to sing with whatever quartet it was that came into town—

Jim: To be a little kid in a men's chorus teaches you a discipline that you would not get in school or anyplace else. You are expected to stand there and behave like a man. It matures you in a lot of great ways. When I got to college I already knew theory and stuff. My college professors couldn't believe it. I'd tell them, "I learned it in barbershop."

Brandon: I like to think where all these young guys will be in 15 years.

Jim: One of the things I love about the **Ambassadors of Harmony** is this wide range of ages. You see young guys buddying up with these guys they would never talk to or cross paths with in any other walk of life. There's no generation gap at all. When three of us joined, there weren't a lot of kids in barbershop. Now, it's wonderful that these young guys have this network, but I'm sort of glad I didn't just hole up with a bunch of young kids. To be with these [older] guys taught me a lot about life.

The real reason they started singing together

Mike: On a show not too long ago the emcee actually announced us, "They were all in other championship quartets and decided they needed another gold medal, so they got together ..." That was our introduction: "The thirst for another gold medal." That's not just last on the list of reasons we got together—it wasn't even





Brandon Guyton (Br) was bari of 2002 champ Four Voices, a highly innovative and exciting college quartet that started as part of the acclaimed Voices of Lee, a premier mixed vocal troupe from Lee University. Four Voices produced two recordings, performed in 44 states and four countries and performed in

venues such as Lincoln Center and with artists including Bill Gaither and the Swingle Singers. Brandon and his brother, Chad (lead of Four Voices), discovered barbershop while in their teens, an obsession now also shared by their four younger brothers. He works in corporate sales for AT&T in St. Louis. He and his wife, Noemi, live in St. Peters, Mo. with children Chandler, Taylor and Isabella. "Another gold medal wasn't just last on the list of reasons we got together—it wasn't even *on* the list!"

on the list!

Jim: We got together and we made a big decision: Do we compete or not? We kind of didn't want to, but the only way anybody knows you exist is to compete. It

was sort of a necessity. Not that it's not fun and, obviously we wanted to do well.

Brandon: The gold medal was a goal with our first quartets. With this quartet, you get together because Mike is a wonderful person, he's the kind of person you would want to be associated with. Jim is a wonderful person, a wonderful family man I want to be associated with for my family and my kids. When you're together for 20 weekends a year, it's about so much more to us. It is a ministry for us, both externally and internally. I want my kids to have good influences around them. That means a lot more than whether a guy can sing in tune, or we wouldn't have picked Mike ... (laughter)

Jim: When the three of us sat down, we had this list of tenors and Fred was at the top of the list. There were a lot of great tenors on the list. Ultimately, we said, we love Fred Farrell, we love his wife, we love his kids. Let's just deal with Fred.

Brandon: We hadn't heard Fred sing in 20 years and he was our tenor. We had no clue what he had. That's how committed to the family vision we were.

Fred: We have to be careful that people don't hear that and think, "The gold medals mean nothing to them." The medals do mean a great deal to us, but it's a total by-product of everything else that's important to us.

Jim: None of us need another medal, none of us need more acclaim. In that aspect, maybe it is a little selfish. None of the four of us would be singing in any quartet if we weren't getting the friendship aspect out of it. I would not be in a quartet just to be good. I don't have time.

Developing quartet chemistry

Mike: It's important to talk about a lot of things when you're beginning to be in a quartet. There's more than just "Is he a good baritone? Is he a good lead?" We even brought our wives to our first rehearsal. You need to come to a vision early, figuring out *why* you are, not just what you are.

Brandon: There are things we get in this quartet that we didn't get in previous quartets. Not that there were problems, we all got along. But [Crossroads] can sit around and probably woodshed a lot of albums: The Suntones, **Boston Common**. I think we find a completeness for each of us that we didn't find in the other groups.

Fred: We got together as a foursome because these are the people we want to be with both musically and socially.

Then there's the musical challenge and the things that keep us fired up on a musical level that has to be there.

Brandon: You see a lot of quartets where guys are worried about the other guys.

In this quartet, I only worry about me. We get a lot of new music coming through the door. We commit to each other, "We're going to open the afterglow with it." That's a lot of pressure, our agreement to keep up with each other.

Jim: We don't have a person in the quartet who's "The Leader." We learn our songs in a certain way and in a certain time, we take our shows at a certain pace because that's the vision.

Mike: So when songs come in, you know "That's not going to work" or "this goes along with what we're trying to do."

Fred: The vision was really clear and evident to us





Fred Farrell (T) was tenor of influential 1989 champ Second Edition, with whom he recorded two albums and performed in 38 states and six countries. Fred started singing Barbershop at age 10 in the Denison, lowa Chapter, which was chartered by his father, Don, who was also an active director and quartet coach and past Harmony College faculty. Fred's mom Katie is also known for her arranging and song writing as well as her

beautiful solo voice. Fred is Vice President of North American Sales for Interop Technologies-a text messaging and wireless communications technology firm. Today, Fred and his wife Kim reside in Ft. Myers, Fla. with children Olivia, Caroline, Quinn, Molly and Lillian.

from the beginning.

Jim: But we also talked about, we're not going to go out more than one weekend a month, because we've all got small children, and in our first quartets we were gone so much. Kids growing up, we were just away from wives. We said, we don't have to do that. We can spend at least three weekends a month at home—

Mike: —and we stick to it—

Jim: —very few exceptions. But the result is when we get together, we can't wait to get together. We're chomping at the bit. It's never old, it's never tired.





Jim Henry (Bs) sang bass with 1993 champ The Gas House Gang, one of a handful of quartets in the Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame. Widely admired for their vocal artistry and showmanship, the GHG recorded five albums and performed in 50 states and 15 countries. Jim holds degrees in vocal music education and music theory, including a Ph.D. in music composition from Washington University. He

is Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and artistic director of the Ambassadors of Harmony. Jim joined his father in the Daniel Boone Chorus (now Ambassadors) at age 12. He lives in St. Peters, Mo. with wife, Geda, and children Gea Rose and Isaiah. Their married daughter, Lydia, lives in Europe.

The importance of family chemistry

Jim: We desire to be together as four families. We make up reasons to spend weekends and weeks together. This New Year's we went to Mike and Fred's in Florida. Rented our cabins in the Smokies for Memorial Day. Spent New Year's in a dumpy motel. We have more fun with the four families than with just the four of us. The family aspect is way above the singing aspect.

Mike: The other blessing is to see our kids singing. Barbershop is a part of all our families and all our kids. Seeing our kids want to sing tags together—

Brandon: —hopefully, they won't all intermarry.

Mike: When I grew up, we didn't have that network of kids. But our kids love coming to the international convention and singing tags and being with each other. We have kids ranging from infant to 28 years old and everywhere in between. With 14 or 15 kids together, there's almost no fighting, no drama.

What it takes for a great chapter

Brandon: If there's great leadership then the organization will thrive. You look at a chorus like Ambassadors. You have Jim directing, you have David [Wright], **Vocal Spectrum**, a great president and board in place. There's such tremendous leadership, people want to be involved on every level. Someone is at the head leading and they know how to get there, and without any pretentiousness or "self" involved. But you sometimes see in other groups where people own it in a way that's not healthy.

Fred: I think it's always about the greater good—putting the goals of the group ahead of your own. With the leadership you're talking about, the goals are usually well defined. We can't have a Jim Henry or a Jim Clancy [**Vocal Majority**] in every chorus, but if the mission and the vision is clear, and everyone's in it for the greater good and doing it for the right reasons, you're going to have success. You don't see the fieldoms, and you don't see the powerful ego running the show. It's something people want to be part of.

Coming full circle since their youth

Fred: It really is about the music. That's what it's all about with Jim and Jim Clancy. It sounds cheesy, but that's why guys keep coming back.

Mike: We've learned the giving side of things. So many people give so much of their time to the hobby. We try to do that as we've taken all this from other people, to give a lot of that back. We do a lot of shows and we're asked to maybe do a little seminar and coaching clinic or directing. We go to a lot of schools to do "Jim-posiums." It's fun to be able to do that.

Fred: We were singing as kids in a low pressure environment with our families, singing tags. That's how we were all introduced to barbershop. We've all spent time putting the pressure on ourselves, and that first time is about winning the gold medal, and you sacrifice things for the sound. We've all come back to that thing where it's all about the social aspect and the love and the friendship. It happens to be at a pretty high level musically—but it's like it was when we were kids almost.





Mike Slamka (L) made his mark as lead of Power Play, where he won the 2003 international championship along with his father, Jack (Bs), brother Mark (Br), and cousin Don (T). Their family appeal, audience rapport and uncanny ring made Power Play an

audience favorite. They produced three albums, performed all over North America, were featured on the Jane Pauley show and performed at The Grand Ole Opry. Mike joined the **Grosse Pointe, Mich. Chapter** at age 10 and was a charter member of the **Macomb County, Mich. Chapter**, directed by his father. Mike is Director of Product Support Services for Interop Technologies. He and his wife Traci live in Ft. Myers, Fla. with daughters Michaela, Mackenzi and Madison.



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Welcome new members! Thank you recruiters!

New members who joined between December 1, 2009 and July 1, 2010. Each recruiter's name follows in italics.

Cardinal

Aaron Barber Steve Burke James Beeson Bob Thrasher Brad Blackburn Randy Roccia Josh Bowman Robert Christie **Benjamin Burns** Steve Burke Bruce Childress Russell Dart Rex Churchill Barry Ryser Barry Crutcher Lindle Pogue Steve Erdosy Lawrence Klein Mel Granger Gary Gibbons Kevin Haley David McKenzie Jim Kiefer Don Nobles Daniel Jay King David Haines Eugene King Lonnie LaBaw Jeremy Kirkmeyer Billy Dovel Adam Kunsemiller John Powers Bill Newcum William Christine Michael Olson Phillip Deethardt Patrick Perry David Haines **Bob** Peters Mike Ehringer Paul Playforth James Lyon Stephen Reen Earl Sword Joshua Rice John Conn Paul Vincelli Michael French Mark Williams Don Silvey Dwayne Wright Bill White

Carolinas

Gary Gebhardt Michael Masters Steven M. Goodwin Donald Wigent Paul Hardison Bruce McGee **Bob** Lemons Jim DeMange Paul LoRusso Paul Martin Stephen McCluskey A Wayne Hickam William Norwood Robert Lee

Skip Paschall Kenneth Bright Jay Phillips Morgan Wynne Phil Russell Brantly Cox Greg Stivland Chris Slacke Daniel Uyesato Larry Triplett

Central **States**

Kyle Affeldt David Freeman Tom Ahlschwede Dale Heiliger Graeme Allen Jordan Black Eric Amundson Allen Erickson Brent Arebalo James Rea John Bardole Vince Yinger Joe Bargo Robert Mathieu Harry Blanchard Richard Baranowski Daniel Ax Ryan Broker Stacy Williams Price Carter Robert Mathieu Norman Chambers Phil Hunget Taylor Cook Cody Via Bryce Cronbaugh John Hayden Donald DeFreese Terry McCameron Phillip Dukeman Cody Via Matt Suellentrop Karl Fliehler Gene Zeimet Ron Frary Tom Gannon David Freeman David Freeman Mark Friz James Stull George Gay Rich Green Jeff Wolff Stephen Henderson C Virgil Henderson Al Hunter Gerald Peterman Robert Huskey Morris Kevrick Larry Iffrig Roger Horton Dixie Jerry Job David Farris David Keeley David Tingwald champ Ivan Kenyon

Randy Lauer Thomas Schermuly Harry Leebman Dean Carlisle David Manley James Anderson **Bailey Miller** David Freeman Greg Miller Allen Erickson John Nichols John Marshall Sean Nollen Joshua Marshall Larry Parks Joshua Marshall Lucas Pherigo Anthony Fortino Christopher Portell Robert Patterson Tim Powers Mike Scott Dan Rasmussen Samuel Dollins Caullen Sasnett David Freeman Lee Schinkel Lonald Gellhaus LeRoy Schmieser Thomas Sekavec Wade Michaelis Lance Sellner Mike Sellner Ted Simon Mike Schumacher Jeremiah Spurgeon Dan Monahan Craig Stephens Gene Zeimet Stephen Szmed David Freeman Joshua Marshall Ethan Walsh Jon Peterson Sam Weiss Mike Frisina Kyle Wheeler Matthew Weber Kelly Wheeler Matthew Weber Robert Whitmore Tom Gannon John Erwine Ted Yelton Andy Isbell Aaron Zart Jon Peterson

Brandon Ashworth **Bill Schreiner** Andrew Beau-Becca Box John Britton Kirby Sullivan James Childress

Zeph Montgomery

Scott Kunze

Tom Gannon

Richard Blaney **Bill Devine** Don Jackson Colin Ebdon Robert Slaney Robert Frink Bill Devine Cody Glover Chad Guyton Tanner Harris Chad Guyton H. Charlie Holder Lamar Owens David W. Howell John Kinney Gene Huelman Karl Dommert Richard Iverson William Lumpkin Jesse Kimberlin Roland Davis Joshua Lokken William Easterling Phillip Mitchell Tommy Mitchell Ryan Modrall Shane Scott Zachary Morrison Chad Guyton John Nuttall Frank Hrach Wesley Paradise Roderick Eddleman Jorge Perez Jeremy Conover A.J. Puckett Dick Rockwell Matt Rice Jeremy Conover Robert Sheehan James McLane Austin Smith Shane Scott Andy Taylor John Centamore Peter Taylor John Centamore Thomas Watts Loren Tjoland Clayton Wise James Hickman **Evergreen** Anthony Adams

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About this article. Here's an excerpt from the November 1941 issue of Barbershop Re-Chordings, the Society's precursor to The Harmonizer. It seems that things never change, but they do. That was then and this is now, but if we don't continue to push the Society at every opportunity, we are courting trouble.

-Ed Watson, Society CEO

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and Navy Emergency Relief, in St. Louis.

HOW TO START A NEW CHAPTER

The growth of our Society will be in proportion to the number of new Chapters that are organized. To anyone interested in being instrumental in forming a new Chapter, here is our formula:

First, find a "spark plug"-someone who enjoys to sing, or listen to, barber-shop harmony. He should then talk to eight or ten of his brother "addicts" and obtain their pledge to be charter members of the proposed Chapter. Next he should write to the National Secretary for an outline of the mechanics of getting the Chapter under way. An immediate reply will be forthcoming. It's all very simple, and the thrill of being a charter member of a new Chapter will compensate each member of the group that "pioneers" the movement. Each member of the National Board stands ready to help in any way that he can-and your National Secretary will lend every needed assistance in "spreading the Gospel" through the forming of new Chapters. Write to him about any fertile field that shows up in your line of vision. This is a job that must be done—and every active member of our Society is urged to keep his eyes peeled for opportunities to start new Chapters. Don't wait for someone else to do it.

July/August 2010 • The HARMONIZER 27

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Tom Malesic George Stephens Ben Crim Jack Stonesifer Anthony Colosimo Thomas Tyson Gene Hammerle Clifford Walter Stephen Rafe

Northeastern Bill Booth

James Anctil Jonathan Mansfield Scott Salladin Hamish Arbow Melvin Mofford Jeff Bardin Larry Wilbur Christopher Belding Ryan Perry Eric Ruthenberg Alex Benevides Tony Beneviedes Jeff Bibeau Tony Beneviedes Bernie Boudreau Nick Mattison Shawn Bower Henry Mugford Cv Boynton George Wennerberg Terry Smith Jordon Brodeur Tony Beneviedes Gary Bruce Christopher Andrade William Bruno Frederico Medina Nate Chester Joseph Hudson Aaron Christian Robert Pitts Grant Clark Glen Cosman Alex Clark Geoff Tucker Steven Costopoulos Joseph West Robert Whitney John Cruickshank Tom Andrews **Rick Davies** Mark Lewis Larry DeMerchant Jay Daniel Michael Driscoll Jeffro Bursey Rob Drugan Craig Seaver Donald Foster Jerry Epstein Todd Fruth Gary Sandman Kyle Galloway Alex Andrews Herb Glazer Howard Zingboim Justin Hauser Donald Hauser Gene Holm Dick Faston Daniel Inglis Garv Sandman Douglas Joseph Don Lind Timothy Kaiser Robert Golenbock John Kennedy Don Murphy

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Joseph Cecil

Rob Gee

Arnold Dixon

Ross Gowan

Larry Heaslip

Douglas Hall

Frank Hamper

Ron Treadgold

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Ed Hartwick

James Lewis

Steven Herr

Jim Wells

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James Hall David Agnew Carlton Cecil David Chaplin James Hall Brian Anderson Kent Cushman Larry Capp Del Sparks Norman Ball George Drake Harry Qualman Thomas Rea Jim Blakeley Korey Goodall Raymond Pilon Ronald Fick John Boyd Edward Gurd John Hamilton Frank Gurd Merrick Buck James Guzdzial David Daniels Robert George Daniel Campbell Eric Hall Paul Coutts Larry Parker Anthony Chow Cody Harrell James Vezina Dale Wells Alan Daly Stephen Hunt David Kemp Eric Hall Paul Deventer Matt Hunter Kevin McCarthy Jeff Cobb Geoffrey Durward Kermit Johnson Scott Durward Bill Mason Ben Krinke Bob French Douglas Barnett

Derek Lachowski Todd Smith Gary Langdon Gary Robert **Topher Lautner** Jeff Cobb Jesse Lethbridge Bryan Schmidt Philip McKinstry Michael Oberstadt Wavne Oberstadt Larry Parker Gary Poulos Marlyn Byrd Barckley Roach Al Grieser Dick Russell Van Reid Rene Salagan Malcolm Travis William Slaby Raymond Robitaille Jim Lamkin Brandon Smith Dale Wells Walter Stoll Jack Frucci Noel Williams Warwick Mercer Jonathan Woolf David Woolf Rockv Mountain

Sam Abenth Ben Ramos Roger Allen Joe Gibson Charles Autry David Harris David Balicki Keith Kauffman Rodney Eugene Mills Paul Bonilla Fred Mason Adam Brandes Jean Harano Raleigh Byers Darin Drown David Crom True Kirk Michael DeBell Michael Skaff Fred Dranev Pete Tyree Delbert Dyck Dennis Olmstead Rex Field Robert Melvin Jim Gardiner Gary Welsh Dan George Keith Kauffman Jack Hampton Harry Hoffman T.J. Henry Neil Ridenour Mark Jennings Pete Boldrin Don Kautz William Wilton Jasen Ken-Garrett Gillingham nington

Tom Melville Philip Kindgren Billy Hendricks Dave Klassy Rex Field Douglas Kulesa Ronald Skabo Loren Lintz Pete Anderson Michael Lythgoe William Osterhouse Pete Boldrin David L. Maddox Albert Clark Trevor McKinney Ben Ramos Joe Montante Edward Fitzgerald Zachary Ostrowski Greg Thiel

Edward Simons **Bill Raley** Leland Griffin Michael Reed Robert Doolittle Ahren Reiter Anthony Howell Brian Ricks Nicholas Pond Jack Shepard Johnny Biffle S. Philip Stover Sam Chestnut Aaron Sutton Jim Gogolin John Taylor Donald Weiszbrod

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The article is out of date, but the recruiting concepts are still fresh! This comes from Mary Spellman of Kearney, Nebraska. [Mary died Feb. 2, 2009 – Ed]. Marv has brought in more than 90 members during his career. [118 when

he died] Some of his thoughts include:

"Kearney is located in the center of the USA from east to west. This is how we chose our chorus name (1733 Chorus) as it's 1733 miles to San Francisco and 1733 miles to Boston. Kearney has a population of approximately 23,000 and we have six surrounding towns each with less than 2,000 people. So, totally we have less than 40,000 ... so we don't have a lot of people [from which] to recruit. There are 12 chapters in Nebraska and the Kearney Chapter is number three in membership. We have more members than Omaha with approximately one million population, and we're also bigger than Lincoln with 250,000 population.

"Our chapter was 25 years old last June and I have signed up 90 members and I'm working on three more before the end of the year. When I reach 100 man-ofnotes I'm gonna hang up recruiting. I'll never catch up with Jerry Orloff, but he has a lot more population to work with. (In case you missed it elsewhere, Jerry has 200 men-of-notes plus having given away 38 more. -Ed)

Here are a few suggestions that I use. First of all, you cannot sign up friends or relations, so that leaves total strangers to go after. I did not know any of my 90 members or what they looked like. All of my invitations are written. I made up a special letter that I send out. My chorus is great as they give me all the postage and stationery that I need. I send out about 20 to 25 invitations per month. I tell each prospective member that each Monday night is a special guest night and they don't know the difference. I've been told several times that I'm a "persistent bastard."

Here's how I got one member: I was at a Saturday Mass and I heard a guy singing behind me a couple of rows back. When Mass was out, I followed him to his car—I wrote down the license number of his car—called the court house and gave them the number and they told me his name and address. I wrote him a letter to invite him to be my guest. Six weeks went by and I heard nothing. Then one Monday night before rehearsal, he called and wanted to come to see what barbershopping was all about. I signed him up. Two years later he was our chapter president and the following year our show chairman.

I watch for newcomers in church bulletins and the newspapers. I also check on who got promoted, divorced and married ... and I send them an invitation. The whole secret is you've got to ask everyone to be your guest. They are out there waiting to be asked."

(note: Thanks, Marv. Persistence certainly does pay off. How many more chapter presidents can each of us find using the "stalking" method? It may not work for everyone, but ... it may work for you! And by the way, can your chapter afford a little postage and stationery to fund a guy that can write to people randomly? If Mary Spellman can find 90 members in 25 years in an area of 40,000 people, what can your best recruiter do? -Ev Nau)

Found in The Voice of Rushmore, Rapid City, S.D. Chapter newsletter

Bernie Micklos Adam Mckillip Hans Steen Richard Nappi John Rice Stephen Riley Eric Van Druff Fred Rourke John Schramm Michael Ruth David Melonson William {Bill} Schmitz Ed Rummler Adam Sirois John Perricone Glenn Sparling Frank Lazipone Tom Tripiciano Michael Richards John Venezia Samuel Williamson Dylan Pomichter Ted Walczak Thomas Ritchey Douglas West Paul Ellingson Bob Wilson Clifford Hayner

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Cody Beltran-

Sergio Guillen

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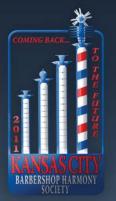
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STAY TUNED

Success! Readers report what works

A tale of Shakespeare, barbershop and volcanos Related: Youth outreach, French airports, \$5,350 and Iceland. (It all comes together!)

he **Peninsulaires Chorus** (Palo Alto-Mountain View, Calif. Chapter) went above and beyond the call when they donated the entire proceeds of their Spring concert to help out the Mountain View High School Madrigals. The May 8 show was originally designed as an outreach to a local high school choral program, but the "Shakespeare



and Barbershop" concert took on special meaning for the Madrigals, who were stranded for over a week in France because of the volcano eruption in Iceland. The Madrigals amassed a bill of around \$50,000 while enjoying the grey skies of springtime in Paris and waiting to get clearance to fly.

The Madrigals arrived home in time for the show, by which time the chorus had voted to donate the entire proceeds after expenses to help defray the debt. The \$5,350 check, which was enough to close out the debt, was presented to director Jill Denny on June 4, during practice for the school's graduation.

The show melded the madrigal and barbershop styles with quotes from Shakespeare, while the groups



showed the continuity of a cappella music as it has evolved through the past few centuries. In her remarks to the audience, Denny thanked the Peninsulaires for showing the students that choral singing can be a lifelong pleasure which does

not have to end with high school or college. The concert ended with a mass singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing" with the chorus and Madrigals dressed in medieval costumes.

The Peninsulaires, meanwhile, developed a new appreciation for the magic of Shakespeare's words and their ability to apply to so many modern situations and emotions. "All's well that ends well."



WESTERN HOSPITALITY SINGERS WIN TROPHY AT FAMOUS CALGARY STAM-PEDE. With a portable sound system on a little red wagon, the Western Hospitality Singers performed upbeat songs from their "range cowboy" package for thousands in the parade for the Calgary Stampede, "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth." The chorus won the coveted Best Parade Prelude Entertainment trophy ahead of 19 entrants, and performed for four other Calgary Stampede related shows.



A SCENE ALMOST TOO BEAUTIFUL FOR WORDS. More than 46,000 American flags were placed on headstones at the Chattanooga National Cemetery on the Saturday before Memorial Day by 1000 scouts, leaders, and parents. Following the presentation of the colors by the scouts, the Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus sang the "National Anthem" and "God Bless America." This was the fourth year the chapter has had this honor.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Society members reported as deceased between December 1, 2009 and May 1, 2010. E-mail updates to membership@barbershop.org.

Cardinal Robert Boveri

Lafavette, IN Jack Halsema Greater Indianapolis Ross Hardin Louisville, KY Ross Hardin Oldham County, KY James Murray Lake County, IN Allen Perry Vincennes, IN Martin Stightz Lake County, IN Herman Waters Lake County, IN Daniel Zdrojeski Lake County, IN

Carolinas

Ronald Avers Lexington County, SC Chauncey Knapp Wilmington, NC Elam Kurtz West Jefferson, NC Rutledge Morris Spartanburg, SC Gary Pixley Wilmington, NC Research Triangle Park, NC J Dale Propst Hickory, NC James Reel Spartanburg, SC

Jack Smith Lexington County, SC

Central **States**

Aloys Baeder Ord, NE Ivan Boerner Nebraska Citv, NE John Conrad St Louis Suburban Leo Dreiling Manhattan, KS Leo Erickson Overland Park, Olathe, KS **Richard Falzone** St Charles, MO Bob Frankenfeld Greater Ozarks, AR Missoula MT Ross Lankenau Kansas City, MO Harold Moorman Frank Moran Hutchinson, KS Bozeman, MT Ben Nelson William Whobrey Hastings, NE Olympia, WA Elden Reisetter **Far Western** Des Moines, IA Kevin Stephens Sam Aramian

Des Moines, IA Dixie

Ashley Benson Greater Knoxville, TN Pasadena, CA Maloy Hall Melvin Edwards Central Alabama Inland Empire, CA

W Fred Hinesley San Diego, CA Savannah, GA Eric Erickson Macon GA Whittier CA David Malony Dick Girvin Frank Thorne Inland Empire, CA Jack Smith Irvine, CA Frank Thorne Riverside, CA Carl Hasselwander **Evergreen** Coachella Valley, CA Roger Danielson Ted James Greater Phoenix Federal Way, WA Wesley DuCharme Ralph Moore Coeur D'Alene, ID St George, UT Robert Haffner Jon Nelis Oregon Mid-Coast Greater Phoenix William Hopkins Samuel Nese Crescenta Valley, CA Frank Thorne Don Newberry Mert Johnson Portland Metro, OR Bakersfield, CA Donald Lentz Stephen Richardson Inland Empire, CA Willard Lindorff Riverside, CA Tualatin Valley, OR Gary Smith Santa Rosa, CA Roger Stroede

Illinois

Sun Cities, AZ

Greater Phoenix Walt Bohdan Ronald Asplund Chicago Metro, IL David Burke Central California Lawrence Bortstein South Cook, IL Cecil Dallinger Peoria, IL George Davison

Peoria, IL Richard Falzone Springfield, IL William Gallagher Chicago Metro, IL Wilbert Lange Sterling Rock Falls, IL George Meyer Peoria, IL Walter Nelson Decatur: IL Robt White Springfield, IL

Appleseed Charles Beal Alle Kiski, PA **Richard Bechtle** Marion, OH Joseph Corrao Lorain, OH Edgar Crosley Akron, OH John Elshire Maurice Walleen Grand Lake, OH Davis-Vacaville, CA Richard Esposito Paul Flounders Tuscarawas County, OH

Canton, OH

Johnny Greater Pittsburgh

Edward Hamilton Parkersburg-Marietta, WV Edward Heilmann

Harry Koger Cincinnati, OH Donald Loose Heart of Ohio-Columbus, OH Tony MaTiJevich Lima Beane, OH Charles Vancheri Pittsburgh North Hills, PÅ Ernest Wind Pittsburgh North Hills, PÅ

Land O' Lakes

Mike Berry Milwaukee, WI Donald Erickson Duluth-Superior; MN Harold Kovalaske Ripon, WI Carman Lane Stevens Point, WI Richard Moen La Crosse, WI Jack Reynolds Green Bay, WI William Robinson Greater St Paul Area, MN Kevin Sohl Fargo-Moorhead, ND Harold Telschow Wausau, WI

Loren Wuttke

Minneapolis, MN **Mid-Atlantic** John Anderson Ridgewood, NJ Manhattan, NY Wallace Bailey Montgomery County, MD

John Bartolomeo Ocean County, NJ Morris County, NJ Harry Benninghoff Baltimore, MD Harford County, MD Daniel Knechtle Walter Boyd Charlottesville, VA Bruce Brann Norfolk. VA Robert Brown Bryn Mawr PA Michael Chrismer Hanover, PA Graham Cleaves Hunterdon County, NJ Anthony D'Antoni Harford County, MD Salvatore De Fontes Ocean County, NJ Andrew Diefenderfer Bryn Mawr, PA Anthony Di-Giovanni Tunkhannock, PA Arthur Donato

Bryn Mawr, PA

Alan Eardley

John Eavey Hagerstown, MD Alan Forsythe Bryn Mawr, PA James Harold Manhattan, NY Allan Hayes Harrisburg, PA Theodore Hicks Dundalk, MD Ralph Isiminger Allegany County, MD Reading, PA Joseph Maggi Ridgewood, NJ Teaneck, NJ Rockland County, NY Bob Morrow Dundalk, MD Frederic Park Cherry Hill, NJ Wilbur Penley Harford County, MD David Rapp Reading, PA Isaac Reyes Anne Arundel, MD Dennis Russo Charlottesville, VA Robert Scheetz Cape May County, NJ Carl Sperry Westchester County, NY

STEVE WIXSON

Lansdale, PA

STAY TUNED



Chapter service project becomes a gift of last rites

On Saturday, May 22, a group of 30 barbershoppers from the Spirit of Phoenix chorus met at the home of Jack Nelis (long-time lead in the quartet **Music Box**) to aid our brother in harmony, who had been facing tremendous challenges. Jack's wife, Linda, had been in the hospital for two years straight due to an ill-fated medical procedure that caused severe infections. During this time, Jack was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and became so ill that he was unable to work or keep up their property. He was unable to sing in the Ariz. Division contests; however, he attended the afterglow and sang softly in front of a group of us with his quartet. It touched all that listened.

Linda was released from the hospital but still has serious health issues, and with the devastating burden of so many medical bills and poor health, it became necessary for them to give up their home. The chorus and friends gathered to do two years worth of yard work and to assist in packing their things.

Most of the volunteers who came that day were unaware at first that the Wednesday before, Jack had been placed in hospice care, and prospects were not good. When we heard, it seemed to energize us to finish the job and make his wish come true, as we knew he had worried about the work for some time. It was with sadness that we learned on May 25 that Jack had passed away and was now singing with a larger chorus. We have been blessed by being part of his life.

- Randy Bingel



70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MADE SWEETER. On July 18, Some Other Time quartet of Vernon, B.C.entertained for Herb and Dorothea Reimche's 70th anniversary party aboard a luxury yacht on Lake Okanagan. Herb, 93, sang lead on "My Wild Irish Rose"—the highlight of the evening!

CHAPTER ETERNAL Hillsdale, MI

Battle Creek, MI

Manhattan, NY Stanley Squires Nassau-Mid Island. NY

Paul Strickland Frank Thorne A Franklin Traylor Richmond, VA Luther Walp Hazleton, PA Clyde Young Pottsville Area, PA Hazleton, PA Joseph Yuschok Lewisburg, PA

Northeastern

Gerard Bouchard Waterville ME Albert Carson Saint John, NB Ross Chartley Moncton, NB Chris Dziura Waterbury/Derby, CT Daniel Farley Enfield, CT John Griffin Springfield, MA James Harrington Saint John, NB John Moore Beverly, MA Herbert O'Connor Springfield, MA Ronald Platt Saratoga Springs, NY Allan Richardson Laconia, NH Kenneth Rose Waterbury/Derby, CT Richard Russo Waterbury/Derby, CT Maurice Trudel Worcester: MA Fred Webb Boston, MA

Ontario

Roy Cunningham Barrie, ON Kenneth Curry Ottawa, ON Harry Fitzgerald Simcoe, ON Donald Hutchison Peterborough, ON Robert Margison Frank Thorne Gordon Stacey St Thomas, ON Paul Tamblyn Kingston, ON Gordon Tompkins Peterborough, ON Harry Whale Mount Forest, ON

Pioneer

Stuart Benedict Kalamazoo, MI John Collins Grosse Pointe, MI Carl Hasselwander Detroit-Oakland, MI Rochester, MI John Haywood

Jackson, MI Bill Hetrick Wayne, MI Monroe North. MI Jerry Kehrer Saginaw Bay, MI John Mills Detroit-Oakland, MI Kenneth Mohl Battle Creek, MI William Power Detroit-Oakland, MI Harold Reid Wayne, MI Charles Smithson Rochester MI Roy Tipton Hillsdale, MI Battle Creek, MI Richard Vliet Gratiot County, MI Robert Wisdom Frank Thorne

Rockv Mountain

John Hembrey Pueblo, CO Owen Herndon Colby, KS Lee Ischinger Loveland, CO Dick Jones Denver Mile-High David Longenecker Grand Junction, CO Danny McManus Durango, CO Duane Morris Montrose, CO Christopher Penick Albuquerque, NM Larry Zemlin Santa Fe, NM

Seneca Land

Allen Goss Oneonta, NY Lawrence Hynes Binghamton, NY Thomas Long East Aurora, NY **Richard Reese** Onondaga County, NY Charles Stitt Hornell, NY William Swift Frank Thorne Ted Vanderven Syracuse, NY

John Zonnevylle Rochester, NY

Sunshine

Robert Anderson Naples/Fort Myers, FL John Bartolomeo Sarasota, FL Greater Sun City Center, FL Bruce Brann Orlando, FL Frank Chlad

Manatee County, Sarasota, FL Keith Davy Frank Thorne Jerry Frieser Cape Coral, FL Allen Goss Charlotte County, FL Edward Hamilton Venice, FL Robert Lang Greater Sun City Center, FL Dean Lucas Fort Lauderdale, FL Thomas Martin Sarasota, FL Central Florida, FL John Moore Tampa, FL Nick Nichol Central Florida, FL Frederick Phillips Greater Canaveral Suwannee Valley, FL Robert Sharp Englewood, FL Herman Smith Greater Canaveral Carl Sperry Palm Beach County, FL Boca Raton, FL

George Thayer Charlotte County, FL William Thomas Venice, FL Maurice Trudel Englewood, FL Marvin Van Ausdall Frank Thorne John Zonnevylle Naples/Fort Myers, FL

Southwestern

Clifford Allen Dallas Metro, TX Paul Kern Baker Big "D", TX Arlington, TX Kenneth Barnes Frank Thorne Tommy Bodine New Braunfels, TX Charles Brewer Central Cities. OK Ferderick Cavitt San Angelo, TX Clayton Ferrin Carlsbad, NM Eugene Giles Greater New Orleans, LA James Haddock Liberal, KS H. Steve Keiss Frank Thorne Sterling Lentz Coleman, TX Red McDonald Dallas Metro, TX Vincent Metzo El Paso, TX Chuck Mitchell Fort Worth, TX Dallas Metro, TX

First a quartet, now a music therapy group! The journey begins in autumn

The journey begins in autumn 2009 when Hot Springs, Ark. area barbershoppers Ed Berry, Larry Bradley, Don Kahl and Russ Foris, got together to form **Senior Class** quartet. All have deep roots in barbershop, having been chorus leaders, quartet champions and judges, and they were having a ball!

Fun times hit a snag last October, when Larry and his wife, Toni, were seriously injured in a car accident. He suffered a broken hip and



mangled femur, and after surgery went into intensive therapy. They were planning substitutes for their holiday gigs in November when Ed had a massive stroke. With severely damaged speech, it seemed there would be very little, if any, singing in his future. Many weeks in therapy eventually got him walking with parallel bars. Tenor Don visited several times a week, acting as a therapy coach and getting Ed to hum songs.

Shortly after Ed came home (Larry was up and walking with a cane at this point), Russ organized weekly music therapy sessions at Ed's home. Russ' wife, Nancy, makes homemade soup and fresh bread, and the group enjoys "soup and seventh chords."

Each week they are met by Ed's smiling face. He knows he's going to get a vocal and physical workout—and a pretty good bowl of soup! No, he's not talking much yet. But his notes are right on key, and he's working on the vowels! The old songs make great fodder for a recovering stroke patient and his three compadres in song. In reality, it's great therapy for all of them.



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Executive Offices Ed Watson

Executive Director/CEO ewatson@barbershop.org

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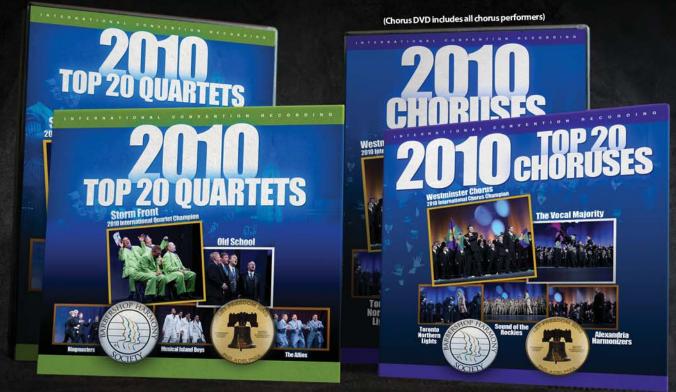
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