Produc

# THEHARMONIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

New Society CEO Marty Monson

/hecognition



INSIDE: Rich Knight's challenge • 75th Anniversary • Valentines • Midwinter • Toronto 2013 is coming!



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September/ October 2012 VOLUME LXXII

# Features

Toronto-Oh!

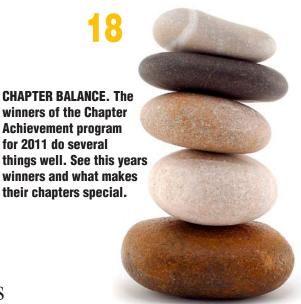
Big-city atmosphere and amenities come together for a world-class convention in a world class city

- The Leader behind "The Laugh" Marty Monson's laugh is like the man: original, no pretension and powerfully rising above the fray JEFF TAXDAHL, PRESIDENT OF HILLTOP, MINN., CHAPTER
- Money where their mouths are John and Sharon Miller match more than six-figures for Harmony Foundation; Rich Knight follows suit
- 75th Anniversary—get ready!
  2013 begins the Society's 75th anniversary year, with many ways you can celebrate in your community
- Midwinter in Orlando Seniors Contest, the Youth Chorus Contest and a ton of warm, casual fun—all under one roof
- "Skip" International convention? These Facebook users can't be serious! And they're not

Singing Valentines done right Take advantage of your chapter's best PR event of the year to turn it into a media, sales and recruiting wedge

Interchapter concert ... in China Toronto's Northern Lights Chorus and the Alexandria

Harmonizers put on a great show in the Forbidden City





# Departments

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Nothing matters more than relationships

# STRAIGHT TALK

Here's what's on Marty's "napkin"

# LETTERS

Jim Clark's serious side, Portland coverage

# **TEMPO**

Leave your mark on 75th Anniversary issue Slain Ambassador's harmonious past

# HARMONY HOW-TO

How to be a great quartet and chorus bass

# STAY TUNED

Chapter doubles in size in a few months Sharpie all over the car's paint job—on purpose

# MEMBER SERVICE DIRECTORY

Where to find answers

# THE TAG

"Valentines Day Tag"

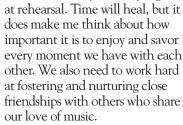
Alan Lamson, Society President • janlam314@cox.net

# Nothing matters more than relationships

ne thing we learn as we grow older (or should I say as we mature?) is that life is full of lessons if we would just pay attention. As Barbershoppers, we are generally consumed by such things as learning that next musical chart or the difficult visual plan that the music team has just distributed. As chapter officers, we worry that our finances may not allow us to run the XYZ program that we have always provided for our members. We think about how we will sell more tickets to this year's annual show. We try not to be late to chapter meeting. But where is the time we need to take to (as many before me have counseled) stop and smell the roses?

Performing music for ourselves and our audiences is probably why we joined the Society in the first place. But after a relatively short period, we begin to realize that the most important thing is the relationships that our membership in the Society has provided for us

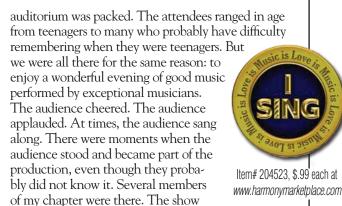
> with other men and women who share our love for music. This has been a very impactful year for me and has made me realize how important these relationships are to the joy of singing. The loss of two good friends in the chorus has left a hole in my chapter that is still apparent to me every Monday night



The retirement of Ev Nau, a personal friend for many years (and with many of you) will result in a Society that is just not the same. It will still be great and his roles in Kenosha/ Nashville the past two decades will be filled by others. But it won't be the same. How many others do we know whose retirement, move to another part of the country, etc. will change the Society that we have grown to know and enjoy? How many people will you impact when you

retire or move away? It is part of the activity we call living, but we need to be aware of these events of our life.

Recently my wife and I, with other members of our family, attended a concert presented by "The President's Own—the United States Marine Band." The



concluded with the performance of the "Armed Forces Medley," with encouragement for all active or veteran military in the audience to stand when their service's anthem was performed. One member of my chapter seated several rows in front of me proudly stood as the band played the anthem of the U.S. Marines. He is a very kind and gentle man. He is quiet and pleasant. He is a Marine. I learned something new about him that night that will positively impact my relationship with him well into the future.

How much do you know about the men in your chapter? I don't mean what they do for a living. I don't mean where they went to college or even whether they went to college. What do you know about each man that is important to him and makes him what he is? Do you know his family? Do you know what brings him peace and joy? Do you know what angers him? Do you know what his favorite activity in the whole world is? Do you know why he joined barbershopping and what he wants to get out of his participation? Do you know whether you play a part in that ... or could?

I started these last two years as your president saying that we have this great opportunity to share our love of music with each other. I also said that we should use our music to share love with each other ("... Music is Love is Music is ..."). Use the music to make good friends with each other. Use the music to touch the hearts of our audiences (even if we do it one audience member at a time). And enjoy the companionship of your fellow singers to share the love we all have for learning new music and performing it. I know that I will be paying more attention to those around me.



janlam314@cox.net



How much do you know about the men in your chapter? What is important to him and makes him what he is? Do you know why he joined barbershopping and what he wants to get out of his participation? Do you know whether you play a part in that ...

or could?

Marty Monson, CEO/ Executive Director • mmonson@barbershop.org

# Here's what's on the back of my napkin ...

Technology

A few items on Marty's calendar	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Nov. 8	MGM Meetings & Convention Com- mittee meeting, Las Vegas
Nov. 9	Society Board Meeting, Las Vegas
Nov. 9-11	Leadership Forum, Las Vegas
Nov. 15	Toronto City meetings & Convention Committee meeting, Toronto
Nov. 15-16	International FAM Trip, Toronto
Nov. 29	All Staff Training, Nashville
Dec. 12	Tim Sharp, ACDA Executive Director, Nashville
Dec. 14	Butch Spyridon, President Nashville Convention & VB, Nashville

On Marty's reading list: Race for Relevance, The Best of O.C. Cash

... and while we're having a lot of conversations here at headquarters, that talk has turned into action on some ambitious plans that are well underway. We have found the most effective implementation happens when we get out of our own silos and work horizontally toward common goals and objectives. What have you done lately to collaborate as a team with the rest of your chapter/district? Which plans are being *implemented?* ■



# Jim Clark's serious side, Portland coverage

# No mere "hobby" indeed

he article by Jim Clark (lead of 2010 international champion **Storm Front**) regarding the quartet singing for family of Gordon Cowden was a fabulous example of Barbershoppers willing to give of their time and talent to brighten the lives of others at an extremely dark time. My hat goes off to those four men and to the men (and women) Barbershoppers all over world who are willing to share their God-given talents with others. Couldn't read that article without tearing up a bit but they were

> **JOHN SCHNEIDER** Houston, Texas



My wife, Amy, and I simply love how you cover international in The Harmonizer each year. You have a flair for capturing so many moments, and your time clock was a neat touch this year. When I read your international experience, I am taken back to "I remember that, too" and smile. Great pictures, fun side stories,

and sassy content. Thanks for the thankless job you do, my friend. We are proud of the fine work you do for our Society!

> Donny Rose lead, **Madison Park** quartet (EVG)

Regarding the convention coverage, check the name Richard Grav. You will discover he was the first bass of **Wheelhouse**, followed by Mike Kelly and the new guy (Dan Van Wetering). You were right but then corrected yourself wrong. (That is what I did throughout my college career when taking exams!) Great writing in *The Harmonizer!* Loved it, could see and live it along with you.

CHARLIE DAVENPORT Nashville, Tenn.

Both my wife and I separately found the **Ringmas**ters acceptance photo on *The Harmonizer* cover to be *very* inappropriate! It certainly is not in keeping with the Barbershop image.

HERB RAMERMAN Pepper Pike, Ohio

A lot of positive feedback regarding the cover was counterbalanced by a few who were equally passionate in the negative. For what it's worth, this photo was the first choice for Ringmasters.

# Sing with the Champs won't be forgotten

In celebration of my 60th birthday in early July, I received the opportunity from my family and loved ones to participate in the Association of International Champions "Sing with the Champs" in Portland. This is a great opportunity at Internationals for any Barbershopper to sing a special song with their favorite champ quartet for a donation to the AIC to preserve barbershop harmony in the world. It was my thrill and privilege, as a Barbershopper and Civil War reenactor, to sing the tenor part on "Roll, Jordan, Roll" with three great guys who happen to sing with 2009 champ **Crossroads** (Fred Farrell sat out, Mike Slamka, Brandon Guyton, and Iim Henry-thanks guys for the T-shirt as well)! They warmly and kindly treated me as one of the quartet, and we had a great moment in time together in singing a American Civil War era song that I will never forget.

So, many thanks to the AIC for encouraging us in quartet singing, the guys behind the scene who actually did the all the organizational leg work, and Jon Clunies of Naked Voice Records for making this happen for 30 of us Joe Barbershoppers!

> HAROLD VOLTZ Spokane, WA

# **Oops**

In the article on page 51 regarding the gig for George H.W. Bush initiated by Jay Wiley, Jay was misidentified as a member of the Granite States**men** (NED) chorus. He is actually a member of the **Portland Downeasters** (NED).



September/October 2012 Volume LXXII Number 5

Complete contact info: pages 30-31

The Harmonizer (USPS No. 577700)(ISSN 0017-7849) is the official publication of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., dba Barbershop Harmony Society. It is published in January, March, May, July, September and November at 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN

Periodicals postage paid at Kenosha, Wisconsin, and at additional mailing offices. Editorial and advertising offices are at the Society headquarters.

Advertising rates available upon request at harmonizer@barbershop.org. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts or artwork

Postmaster: send address changes to editorial offices of The Harmonizer, 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704 at least 30 days before the next publication date. (Publications Agreement No. 40886012. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. E-mail: cpcreturns@wdsmail.com)

A portion of each member's dues is allocated to cover the magazine's subscription price. Subscription price to non-members is \$21 yearly or \$3.50 per issue; foreign subscriptions are \$31 yearly or \$5 per issue (U.S. funds only).

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  2011 The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. dba The Barbershop Harmony Society. Printed in the USA

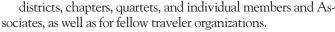
HARMONE



# Leave your mark on Society history in a special 75th anniversary keepsake issue

special 75th Anniversary issue (the January/February 2013 issue of The Harmonizer) is well under way—a large, archivequality keepsake printed on thicker, glossier paper. Just like in the 1963 Silver An-

niversary issue, you or your group can purchase tributes to the Society on its Diamond Anniversary. We're offering up to a 50% discount on tributes in this issue placed by Society



- Full page (7 x 10-vertical): \$695
- Half page (7 x 4.75-horizontal): \$345
- Quarter page (3.43 x 4.75-vertical): \$195 This is one issue of *The Harmonizer* that will be saved and preserved for years. Put your group in it! Contact Mark Holdeman at 75Tributes@barbershop.org to reserve your space by Jan 1, 2013.

# **Bank of America Card** no longer with Society

Bank of America has chosen not to renew the decades-old affinity credit card program with the Barbershop Harmony Society, which since 1990 has returned a percentage of member purchases totaling more than \$1 million in Society revenue. The bank has started issuing cards that no longer feature the iconic Norman Rockwell barbershop image. Cardholders' relationship with Bank of America has not changed. Society members are welcome to keep using the card if they desire; however, the bank no longer earmarks a percentage of your purchases for Society programs.

Society staff is investigating new avenues through which members can support Society programs. For details on the change, see your latest Bank of America billing statement. www.bankofamerica.com

# Slain U.S. Ambassador to Libya built bridges everywhere, including barbershop

The assassination of the U.S. Ambassador to Libya and three others stayed in the headlines for weeks and remains a topic of intense political chatter; but for many, the Sept. 11, 2012, death of Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and was far more personal. Stevens, remembered for his ability to form genuine and lasting connections with practically anybody, even had connections to the barbershop world.

In 1978, Stevens sang bass in a barbershop quartet in a Piedmont High School (Calif.) production of *The Music Man.* According to his quartet mate, Chuck Dresel, Stevens excelled in choir and musicals and was an excellent saxophonist. "Needless to say, harmony was not a problem for Chris," Dresel wrote to The Harmonizer. "In fact, it is something he devoted his life to."

Mark Hodgson, Chuck Dresel, Chris Stevens and Brennen Kane

[The remaining words are all courtesy of Chuck] As a career foreign service officer, he worked tirelessly throughout the Middle East and North Africa to foster harmony between cultural groups and nation states, eventually rising to become the U.S. ambassador to Libya. For those of us who knew him it is not surprising to hear all of the incredible tributes coming from the mouths of the world's leaders. The fact is, they barely scratch the surface. Chris was a truly extraordinary human being, the kind of guy that you hope your son will grow up to become. His loss has been felt deeply by the many communities of which he was a part.

We were so proud of his achievements and so hopeful for his mission.

In truth, there can be no good in good-bye, but there can be hope. Hope that in his legacy are pieces to the puzzle that, when complete, will represent a lasting peace in the Middle East. Fostering harmony, that was Chris Stevens.

For my part, I will always remember Chris for his great sense of humor, his love of life, and for his endearing quality of always being interested in whatever you had to say. He was the guintessential bass, never flat, even toned, rock solid. In life, as he was in the quartet. He will be missed.





# **First ever: Patriotic Premiere Series**

Your chapter may now be focused on Christmas, but American Barbershoppers can start thinking ahead to spring and summer with the Music Premiere Patriotic Premiere Series! This issue (item #206590) includes six pieces of sheet music and a mixed track CD demonstrating each song. Four-

> for each song, voiced by Vocal Spectrum's Tim Waurick, **Max Q**'s Tony DeRosa and D.J. Hiner of The Ritz. This singable collection includes "The Star Spangled Banner," "Ameri-

part learning tracks are available

ca, the Beautiful," "Armed Forces Medley," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "God Bless America" and "God Bless the U.S.A." www.harmonymarketplace.com

CONVENTIONS 2013

75th Anniversary

Toronto 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/

midwinterOri ando Jan. 8-13, 2013

LONG BEACH, CALIF. Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2014

> New Orleans Jan. 6-10, 2015

**HARMONY UNIVERSITY 2012** St. Joseph, Mo. July 28-Aug. 4, 2013

# The Society's best **bulletins** and PR

Winners of the 2012 Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) Awards include:

- Best Bulletin: *Mountain Talk* by Steve Jackson, **Denver**, **CO** (RMD)
- Public Relations Officer of the Year: Eric Herr, Alexandria, VA (MAD)
- Yearly Activity: Lee Roth, Hunterdon, NJ (MAD)
- Website of the Year: Eric Contzius, Westchester County, NY (MAD)

2012 Inductees into the P.R.O.B.E. Hall of Honor:

- Roberta Miller, Portland Metro, OR (EVG)
- Karen Nanninga, Manhattan, KS (CSD)

# Society briefs

**Society Forms musical alliance with Sinfonia.** In the spirit of collaboration and cross-pollination, the Society has formed a musical alliance with Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, the nation's oldest and largest music fraternity. Phi Mu Alpha now posts Society links on its website, including to our music catalog, our music collection, a link to search for a barbershop chapter, and the video of Ambassadors of Harmony's 2009 "76 Trombones" performance. Since 1898, members of the fraternity have helped transform music in America. Sinfonia featured a breakout session on barbershop during their convention last summer by Manny Lopez, a long-time member of both organizations. www.sinfonia.org

**Newest Comcast barbershop offerings.** Comcast XFINITY customers - check out the newest lineup of barbershop videos, available through January 7, 2013. To view, go to the Comcast menu > On Demand Music > Music Picks > Barbershop Harmony.

\* NIGHTE

- Four Voices "After You've Gone"
- Metropolis "They Go Wild, Simply Wild Over Me"
- Vocal Spectrum "Wonderful One"
- Masters of Harmony "Yona, from Arizona"
- Redline "Hello My Baby"
- Michigan Jake "Somebody Knows"
- Great Northern Union "Put Your Arms Around Me Honey"
- Northern Lights "Alexander's Rag Time Band"
- Tag Time

**73-year Society member dies.** One of two surviving 73-year Society members, William R. "Bill" Hamilton of Monroeville, Pa., died Oct. 24, 2012 at the age of 92. He helped organize the Pennsylvania #1 chapter in 1940, sang in more than a dozen quartets including 20 years with The Shera-tones (sponsored by the Sheraton Hotel chain) and was a member of his chapter and the JAD district Hall of Fame. He also served for many years as a judge in Balance & Blend and in Stage Presence.

# 2012 International Convention audio now available for download.

All 224 tracks from all 51 international competitors and all 29 choruses can be purchased individually or by album for 99 cents each. See that collection and 400 other barbershop and a cappella legends at www.nakevoicerecords.com.

# 2013 "eXtreme Quartetting" collegiate scholarships available.

The Atlantic Harmony Brigade will award up to 10 scholarships totaling approximately \$3,000 for young men aged 18-22 for this year's convention-rally in Wilmington, Del., Among last year's eight scholarship winners (Kelby Carlson, David Melonson, Nathan Meisser, Ben Hawker, Austin Harris, Logan Pederson, Ben Polack, Christian Diaz), five were in the two top winning randomly drawn quartets. For more details, go to www.atlanticharmonybrigade.com and send inquiries to ahb.scholarships@ gmail.com. Deadline, Feb. 29, 2013.

# Be part of Ringmasters' North American tour

Yes, they're from Sweden, and no, you don't need to shoulder the cost of flying **Ringmasters** to your chapter show ... or at least not much of it. The 2012 champs will be performing throughout North America from May through August of 2013, and they'd love to be on your

show and to perform and/or be clinicians at your local schools. Having the world's top barbershop quartet coming to your town from Sweden could be the easiest media and show ticket sales pitch you'll ever make. If interested, contact George Davidson at RingmastersManager@gmail.com.



# Trivia junkies rejoice!

Barbershop trivia nirvana awaits you at www.barbershop.org/icq. You know the **Buffalo Bills** won in 1950, but what did they sing, how did they score and who was on the judging panel? And while we're at it, who was tenor of the 23rd-place quartet that year and how did they score? (Bob Longerak, **Hawkeye Four** (CSD) 2020 points, judging panel included luminaries Frank Thorne, Molly Reagan and Bill Diekema.)

That's the level of detail you'll find on the Barbershop Trivia page, with information conveniently sorted at the international, collegiate, college, senior and chorus levels. Visually track every medalist's path through the contest system, find out which past champs are still living and learn the director and score of every chorus that ever competed on the international stage. Sweet Adelines and Harmony, Inc. information is also available. The database was originally created by Ben Trollip and more recently maintained by Patrick McAlexander. Go to www.barber*shop.org/icq* and click the tabs at the bottom of the page.

# **Royal recognition for MacDougall**

Sing Canada Harmony chair and 48-year Society member J. R. "Digger" MacDougall was recently awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal as a Royal thank you for "dedicated service to your peers, to your community and to Canada. The contributions you have made to our nation



are most commendable and deserve our praise and admiration," said the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston.

The award recognizes long-term overall service to the people of Canada, and since his teens, Digger has served as a leader within numerous community, provincial, national and international volunteer organizations. His Chairmanship of Sing Canada Harmony and as a Society and Ontario District leader were key elements in the recognition. Along with the Canadian Forces Decoration (CD) "For Meritorious Service to Canada" awarded three times during his 33-year military career, Digger will wear the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal with the other three medals (including two for international peacekeeping) two or more times per week in official volunteer duties and at formal functions ... opposite the "I SING" button on his right lapel.

# Meet James Estes, Music Educator

This is the heart of the "busy" season and James Estes is on the run again. Between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, he will have visited, taught, sung with, or judged

Barbershoppers in the Dixie, Cardinal, Far Western, Illinois, and Evergreen Districts. In addition, he will have attended the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Denver, the Society's Leadership Forum in Las Vegas, and even made it home for Thanksgiving to visit family in Minneapolis. All James has to do this year is to organize and



run the Society's youth programs, such as the college quartet contest, the Midwinter International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival; make presentations at universities/high schools; teach a variety of courses at Harmony University; visit chapters (often four in four nights): teach at district Harmony Colleges: clinic 4-6 youth festivals each year and occasionally clinic Harmony Explosion camps.

When he is in the office, he fields e-mails and phone calls from Society members each day. During the busiest times of the year, he may spend additional hours working at home.

> James received his degree in Choral Music Education from Lawrence University, Appleton Wis., where 1/3 of the students are music majors. After graduation, he became a public school music educator in Fond du Lac, Wis. for three years prior to joining the Society staff as Student Activities Coordinator, Although voice is his primary instrument, he also plays the piano and even a little quitar. In his "spare" time, James is baritone of international competi-

tor and current Dixie District Quartet Champion The Real McCoy. At the 2007 International, his 2006 LOL Champion quartet, Voices Only, reached the International semifinals.

Born in Birmingham, Ala. 33 years ago, James moved to several states before finishing high school in Minneapolis. He began piano lessons when he was seven and started singing in his school choir in the 7th grade. As a junior in high school, he was inspired to a career in music education. James knew it could be done better and resolved to do so. His greatest joy in music is when he's working with a class, quartet, or chorus, and sees the light bulbs go on—the "Ah-ha" moments when he knows that his students "get it."

He sees his major job as helping Society members to enjoy their passion for barbershop and sing even more through the music education he and his colleagues offer. Through his visits and the assistance he provides from the headquarters office in Nashville, James sees himself as always "open for business" and willing to provide (or find) just the right answer to all of your questions.

When asked how he deals with those days when everything seems to go wrong, James states that he is a "pretty easy going guy"—it takes a lot to get to him. When asked about his philosophy of life, James responded, "Always consider the 'big picture,' but don't get so set on the future that you lose sight of the present." Good advice to all of us from James Estes. Society music educator.

- "Montana Jack" Fitzpatrick



# How to be a great quartet and chorus bass

ne of the biggest mistakes I made very early in my barbershop quartetting experience with **The** Manaagement (1994 NED Quartet Champs) was to try to sing exactly like the last bass I just heard. That lasted for a while until I listened to a different bass from a different quartet and tried to sing just like him.

It was actually Bill Myers (bass of 1998 International Quartet Champion Revival) who straightened me out. He asked the questions that no one else had ever said; "Where is your voice? Where is the voice of Kirk Young? Why do you want to be someone else?" And then he said it – "Sing like you." It has stuck with me ever since.

# **Determine what type of natural voice** you possess and sing with it all the time

With the help of an experienced vocal coach, take the time to analyze where your voice falls and whether your natural voice is placed forward, middle, or back. Determine when your voice is bright or covered. Take the time with your voice coach, your section leader, or members of quartet to identify your individual voice. While you may explore many avenues of voice placement and brightness, these should be natural variations of your own freely-produced voice, not imitations of someone else's voice.

Spend time singing on Barberpole Cats and other melodies, trying to sing with your individual, freely produced and unrestricted voice.

# Learn how the bass singer fits into a quartet

Spend time singing duets with other voice parts. Get a feel for how the parts interact and how the bass can use the duet relationship in the quartet to build the ensemble and increase your own perfor-

The lead singer may be the "pilot" of the quartet, but the bass is certainly the "co-pilot."

When the lead is busy, the bass is the singer who "flies the plane." The bass singer needs to know every detail of the lead's plan for the song and execute it as if he were the lead singer. All of the embellishments for the arrangement are dictated by the bass—he is responsible for ensuring the embellishments have purpose and intent that tie back to the overall theme of the song.

As the bass you are helping to guide the baritone and the tenor through the embellishments, continuing to sing the theme of your performance.



The bass singer's role in the chorus is to make the section work as well as possible. As important as it is for quartet basses to become the "co-pilot," it is equally important for chorus basses to work at building the strength, intelligence and effectiveness of the section.

Listen to your fellow basses. Listen across the section and work to fit the voice you have

into the overall blend of the voices. Allow the section to create a composite vocal color that doesn't resemble a single singer's timbre but combines the voice differences in to a "single voice" for the section. The ultimate goal is to have the bass section sound like one huge bass voice.

When you, as a bass, attend your chorus's bass sectional rehearsals be sure not to use that time to get your words and notes taught to you. Learn that information on your own and elevate your sectional time to working on musical ideas, phrasing, blending and more complex issues.





Kirk Young Harmony University Faculty, Music Judge kirkjyoung@ gmail.com

# TORONT-Oh!

2013 International Convention

June 30 - July 7, 2013

International Convention 2013 will definitely be a "bright lights, big city" deal! This is a convention that you do not want to miss! Not only is Toronto a worldclass city, but also this will be our **75th Anniversary**, and Toronto is going to help us celebrate it in style! We'll have historic displays of past costumes, trophies and memorabilia from our previous 74 conventions, and districts will have historic displays as well. The Swedish quartets Ringmasters and Lemon Squeezy will be coming back for their swan song performances, and we'll have the thrill of Ambassadors of Harmony once again as well!

Speaking of thrills, Toronto's skyline includes the CN Tower, one of the Modern Wonders of the World, where non-acrophobics can try out **EdgeWalk**, a handsfree circular walk on a ledge around the Tower's main pod, 116 stories above the ground. (We've heard that one of our quartets is going to sing from there, but maybe that's just a rumor.) For terra-firma lovers, there are miles of waterfront, boardwalks, parks and trails nestled together with urban delights such as cafés, artisans' exhibits and one-of-a-kind shops, as well as the second-largest Chinatown and theatre districts in North America. There are plenty of other fascinating places as well: Hockey Hall of Fame, Casa Loma, The Royal Ontario Museum of Art, Centre Island ... the list goes on and on!

And if Niagara Falls has always been on your bucket list, now is a perfect time to take care of that. It's just 90 minutes from Toronto! And dozens of movies you thought were filmed in New York City or Chicago? Filmed in Toronto! Get ready for all the sights and amenities of a world-class city.

Getting there? The host chapter clued us in on a secret: Porter Airlines! If you can get to Chicago, Washington, DC, Boston, Myrtle Beach or NY/Newark, Porter can get you to Toronto very economically.

Watch for more details in future issues of *The Harmonizer* and on *LiveWire*.

# Registration Pricing -- Great family packages! Early Bird Rates Until January 15!

Member/Associate/Affiliate Pricing (up to two registrations allowed per member at the discounted price): Early Bird \$189 (after Jan. 15: \$219)

Non-Member Pricing: Early Bird \$209 (after Jan. 15: \$229)

Youth Pricing (25 & Under): Early Bird \$99 (after Jan. 15: \$119)

Family Four Pack (two adults and two youth from same household): Early Bird \$499 (after Jan. 15 \$589) Enter promo code "familypack2013" to receive discount.

Additional Youth: \$25 anytime



Niagara Falls

Royal Ontario Museum of Art



# Across the lobby or across the continent, there's no ignoring Marty Monson

I was standing in the lobby of a convention center at the Land O' Lakes (LOL) District contest last fall catching up with Amy Monson, wife of the man who would later become our new Society CEO/Executive Director. It was the typical noisy, bustling scene, filled with drinking, loud conversations and, of course, a lot of singing.

We had been talking for some time when Amy paused and said, "I wonder where Marty is?" Not 60 seconds later, she got her answer. We both heard a sound that pierced through and above the loud background noise. Without turning her head to look, a wry smile graced Amy's face. No words were spoken, but the look in her eves said it all: "Okay, there he is."

Spend 10 minutes in a room with Marty and you will know exactly what we heard that night. There is really no proper way to describe what anybody who knows Marty immediately recognizes: "The Laugh." It always catches you off guard the first time you hear it. You stop whatever you are doing, turn your head and think, "Really? Is that someone's laugh or the mating call of a gnu?" (Sorry, bad pun.)

It's a loud, high, resonant, full throated expression of joy and delight. It cuts through the air to the point where you can't pretend you didn't hear it. It's unmistakably unique. Did I mention it's loud? And it is one of Marty Monson's defining characteristics.

# The Marty Monson I know

Get to know Marty and you quickly discover "The Laugh" is an extension of his personality—it's part of who he is as a person. It's genuine, it's passionate, it's energetic and, without question, original.

Marty is the living persona of what you would expect from a boy who grew up and went to school in Meredith Willson's Iowa: salt of the earth and hardworking, but with no pretension, no fluff and no bravado. While one would think having a laugh like that would be used to call attention to oneself, that is not the Marty I know.

The Marty I know cannot imagine a world without music. He grew up in the barbershop culture loved by his father, Larry—a vocal music educator by day and a Society chorus director, coach and international guartet competitor by night. All the children inherited their father's passion for music. Marty's brother, Eric, was a member of Water Street Junction, the Society's first Collegiate Quartet Champion, and today makes his living as a professional singer. Their sister, Ann, is a music professor in Wisconsin and an accomplished operatic soprano.

Marty inherited both his father's musical passion and the outstanding management and people skills of his mother, LaVonne. These skill sets first came together while he was singing in the elite choir program at Luther College in Iowa. While there, he began organizing large music festivals throughout the country. Both passions were reflected in the degree he

earned: Business, with an emphasis in Arts Management.

The Marty I know has the skill and the passion to turn limited resources into something much bigger. Before starting as Our Society CEO, Marty was most recently vice president of business development for Glowpoint, a global communications company listed on the NYSE. Marty joined Glowpoint in the company's very beginning stages and was instrumental in their rapid growth to more than 100 employees serving clients in 68 different countries, with over \$24 million in annual revenue.

The Marty I know doesn't stand on the sidelines and fret about circumstances—he gets in the game and changes the circumstances. Rather than complain

The Marty I know doesn't stand on the sidelines and fret about circumstances he aets in the game and changes the circumstances.

about the state of music in public schools, in 2005, Marty, Amy and a few others started a charter school that emphasizes art, languages and music as core subjects. Today, this K-8 school in St. Paul, Minn., employs more than 50 staff and serves hundreds of students with a student-toteacher ratio of 11:1.

The Marty I know is relentless. Last year was the 25th Anniversary of the Hilltop Chapter and the Great Northern

Union Chorus. Marty, our chapter president, wanted to invite all past members of the GNU to our Season Finale concert and have them sing on stage with current GNU members. As you might imagine, that meant contacting hundreds of guys and organizing a huge event. Some of the leadership team really questioned whether it was worth all the work and doubted that very many guys would actually show up.

Marty did most of the heavy lifting himself. He was relentless as he worked the e-mail and the phones. More than 60 past members showed up and had a great time, reacquainting themselves with old friends and singing once again with the GNU. Some have returned to become active members again.

# Marty's non-stop energy source: people

The Marty I know has so much energy he just keeps going and going. One time, when it seemed like he had

Marty Monson



Jeff Taxdahl President. Hilltop, Minn. Chapter ieff@threadlogic.com

# The Barbershop Network launches with an informative, entertaining take on the first few weeks with the new Society CEO

While Jeff Taxdahl spends a few pages here indicating what we might expect with Marty Monson at the Society's helm, for Society staff, that question is already being answered ... and with enthusiasm. Suffice it to say, his impact will soon be felt far beyond the walls of headquarters. See the video at www.barbershop.org/bhsnetwork.

The new Barbershop Network is in its early stages, but as regular

programming begins will grow to become a critical element helping all of us share the barbershop message with each other and with the rest of the world. We're going to need your help to share your stories! Stay tuned for details!













Marty Monson (front, left) oversaw the revitalization of the Great Northern Union. The chapter's old habits weren't delivering the returns they once had, and Monson and Musical Director Peter Benson saw the need for bold action. They convinced chapter members to push a "reset button" that reversed the chapter's slow downward trajectory. Today, the chorus is bigger, better, and more balanced in both ages and activities.

> a dozen different balls in the air, I asked him, "Where do you put the batteries?" (In a reference to the Energizer Bunny.) Upon hearing the question he just looked at me and—you guessed it—laughed.

> One day, the source of Marty's energy finally dawned on me. It is not batteries but people who run his non-stop engine. He feeds off the energy of others. Whether it was singing tags, doing some GNU business, welcoming a guest or just engaging in conversation, rare was the GNU rehearsal night when Marty was not the last one out the door.

> You will probably never enter a room with Marty in it and find him off in the corner by himself. He is always talking to people, always listening and always learning. There were many times I stood back and marveled at his ability to "work" a room. He moves effortlessly from

person to person, engaging them in conversation and genuinely interested in them and their story. It's an ability some people just have—Marty's got it in spades. For him, there's no technique involved, no hidden agenda; it's simply the essence of who he is.

# True leadership at the chapter level

Marty was constantly pushing the GNU in new and different directions. As chapter president over the last five years, he challenged the board and leadership to think differently and solve problems creatively. He pushed us to think beyond the day-to-day operational mentality of the chapter. He has that ability to see things from a very high level but he still understands the importance of being able to execute on the details in order to achieve the vision.

Marty's involvement in the transformation of the Hilltop Chapter and Great Northern Union Chorus was well documented in the November/ December 2009 edition of The Harmonizer. At the time, the GNU was seeing a flat or downward trend in membership, musical quality and contest results. Competition—the chapter's original

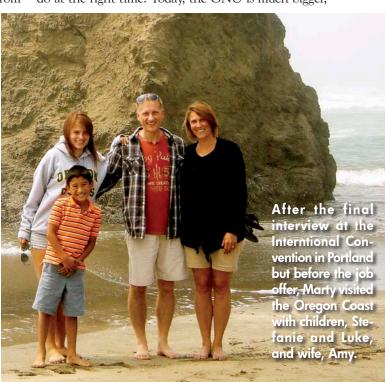
reason for forming—wasn't even as much fun anymore. We were also better known internationally than locally.

Marty and GNU Musical Director Peter Benson led an effort to recharge and remake the chapter into a group that was motivated by something beyond competition. They saw a future in which we were no longer the Twin Cities' best-kept secret. They envisioned a group that broke out of "two-song syndrome" and sang every song well. They knew that if we did, membership, audience and competitive success would follow.

At the center of that strategy was a plan to stop competing on the International stage for two years and instead focus on forging a strong local identity. As you can imagine, that idea was not at first met with rousing support from a large portion of members. Many of them joined the GNU specifically because of the competitive success of the chorus. In fact, a few members actually left the GNU because of this plan.

But because of the vision, communication and integrity that Marty had established in his leadership roles within the chorus, the members slowly began to embrace the plan. After a lot of presentations, conversations, phone calls and e-mails, the members came to understand and then embrace the importance of hitting the "reset button" in order to build a stronger chapter and chorus for the future.

In hindsight, it was not an easy process and it did not happen quickly. But it was exactly the right thing to do at the right time. Today, the GNU is much bigger,



far better known in the community, and a growing regional force in promoting singing and barbershop harmony. We are singing everything in our repertoire better, having more fun, attracting new members, performing for bigger audiences and we also have two silver medals to show for it.

# The idea guy

As the staff at Society headquarters in Nashville has quickly learned, Marty is also an idea guy. Have a conversation with him

about how to change things and make them better and before long he will pour 10 ideas into your head. Some of them are good ideas and some not so good. But all will challenge you to think differently, and many will provide a starting point for a solution.

In our work for the GNU, I often teased him that my role on the leadership team was to act as the filter for his ideas. He would call me up and say, "What do you think about this?" As he threw them out, I would throw them back. After a few back and forth volleys, we usually found ourselves with workable ideas to execute on and implement.

There was more than one occasion when I said, "No, I don't think that works because ..." At that point, most people try and defend their idea. But not Marty. Chances were good he would agree the idea may not be viable. His ego was not hurt. He would just offer up another idea—and chances are, it would be a better one than the one you just rejected.

In referring to his ability to generate ideas, Marty often says that 99% of them end up on the cutting room floor, which is true. But the 1% that survive are almost always really good ones.

He's also the man to have in your corner when you have a great idea of your own. One of the problems we are facing in the LOL is finding good, qualified directors for struggling chapters. Mike Lietke of the Greendale, Wis., Chapter had the idea to find a vocal music education student from a local university and then provide that chapter with a \$5,000 scholarship, funded by the district, to pay that student/director.

Mike called Marty to "try and talk him out of it," but Marty thought it was a fantastic idea. Beyond mere encouragement, Marty built the financial model for Mike's idea and took an important supporting role in Mike's presentation to the LOL Board.

# The right man at the right time

I own a small company and manage a number of employees. If you have ever done any hiring or managing of people in your career, you realize there are very few perfect candidates for a job or position. With each hiring decision, a compromise is generally made because rare

Marty often says that 99% of his ideas end up on the cutting room floor, which is true. But the 1% that survive are almost always really good ones.

is the candidate that is the perfect fit for any given opening.

When Marty first expressed an interest in applying for the Society CEO position, I, and I am sure many others, quickly encouraged him to throw his hat into the ring. Given his personality, background, education, experience and skill set, he was a perfect match for what the Society needs right now.

The challenges facing the Society are well known. There is no question

in my mind, or the minds of those who know him, that Marty is the right person to lead the Society into the future. He will challenge conventional thinking while honoring the great tradition and history of the Society.

I have been a member of the Society for 30 years. In

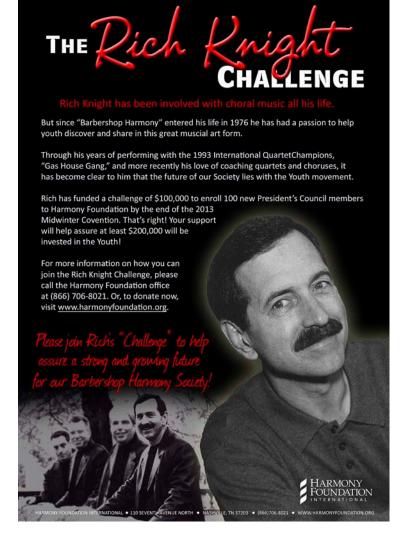


The Hilltop, Minn. chapter's going-away party for Marty featured a lot of-guess what-laughing with Marty (right), and some mixed feelings as well. Sorry that Marty was moving to Nashville, but with every man convinced that the Society was getting a CEO who was going to shake things up in all the right ways.

that time I can say I had never personally met any of Marty's CEO predecessors. The fact is many of you will probably never have the pleasure of meeting Marty. And that is a shame, because if you did, you would find yourself with a new friend. He is one of those rare individuals who you feel like you have known forever even after meeting for the first time.

If you do find yourself in the same room with Marty, please introduce yourself to him. Tell him your storytell him your barbershop story; he really wants to hear it.

And don't be surprised when you hear "the laugh." It comes easily, quickly and when you least expect it. Delight in all that it represents, because there is so much more to the laugh than meets the ear.



# John and Sharon Millers' generosity helps net \$212,000 for Harmony Foundation—Rich Knight follows with his own challenge

Harmony Foundation's Board of Trustees is profoundly grateful for the generous gift of \$75,000 given by John and Sharon Miller in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Society. At international convention, they invited others to match their challenge "dollar for dollar" with gifts from new members of the President's Council and Ambassadors of Song, as well as the amount of increased dollars from current members. During the convention it became clear that there was a "match of another kind" taking place—a match of commitment, engagement, passion, and vision for our future. By the end of the International Convention in Portland, a matching \$106,000 was raised. John and Sharon extended their match by an additional \$31,000 so the entire \$106,000 has been matched for a total of \$212,000.

Also inspired by the Miller's gift was Rich Knight, lead of legendary 1993 international champion **The Gas House Gang**. He is funding a \$100,000 matching challenge to enroll 100



# **Barbershop Harmony Society**

1938

Seventy-five years of song and fun and harmonious fellowship—now there's cause to celebrate! What is your chapter doing to mark our Diamond Anniversary? Here are some activities in the works:



# 75th Anniversary Show Script "Celebrate Harmony"

This show was designed to entertain and educate the public on our rich heritage and the music we share. The songs are classic barbershop, easy and fun to sing, and have been cleared by the Society. There's even a learning track for each song to help you along. Find it by clicking on the 75th Anniversary logo at www.barbershop.org.

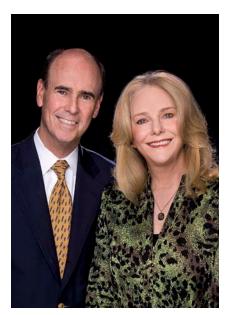
# **Governor and Premier Proclamations**

We have sent out requests to governors in every state and premiers in every province to declare April 7-13, 2013

Barbershop Harmony Week. Chapters will be singing at state houses, court houses, town squares and everywhere!

# **Local Birthday Celebrations**

Use our 75th Anniversary as a platform to get more publicity for your chapter and chorus! Here in Nashville, we're having a downtown birthday party on April 11, 2013. We'll have 75 birthday cakes, one for each year, and each with a double-sided photo of one of our 74 quartet champions.



John and Sharon Miller matched \$106,000 in gifts during the international convention in Portland

new President's Council Members to Harmony Foundation by the end of the 2013 Midwinter convention. To enroll, call 866-706-8021 or visit www.harmonyfoundation.org.

# THE HAPPINESS EMPORIUM

— CELEBRATING 40 YEARS: 1972–2012 —

# On 12/12/12

the Happiness Emporium celebrates our 40th anniversary with the release of our last album, Time Flies.

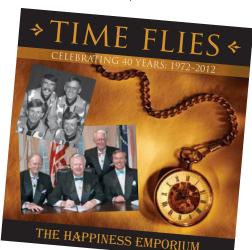
#### **FEATURING**

#### The Old Guys Set

The Too-Much Opener Accustomed to this Pace Barely Alive Old Bones Medley The Medicare Song The Fleeting Mind At Sixty-five It's Hard to be Nimble Old Guys Too-Much Tag Rockin' Chair Song

#### **Gospel Songs with Piano**

Have A Little Talk With Jesus Gaither Medley It Is No Secret Blessed Assurance



# WHAT'S NEW:

Order CDs online and listen to sound clips - visit our web site!

www.HappinessEmporium.com

# **75th Anniversary Celebration**

# Special anniversary edition

The entire January/February 2013 issue of *The Harmonizer* will be devoted to the 75th Anniversary! It'll be a keepsake edition that you will want to save forever!

# International Convention in Toronto, Ontario

What could be better than celebrating this special milestone in the Society's history together? You will not want to miss the historic displays, both from the Society and from individual Districts. There'll be quartet costumes from every year and memorabilia of all kinds. It's like a travelling Barbershop Museum! Nowhere else can you see so much barbershop history assembled in one place.

# Resources for your chapter available on website

There are a lot of graphics for you to download and use in your publicity efforts, including old photos, the Norman Rockwell barbershop painting, an old barbershop chair, old sheet music covers, logos and emblems. Just go to www.barbershop.org and click on the 75th Anniversary logo.

#### More to come

There's more we can't spill the beans on until we get all the details, so watch for more 75th Anniversary news in *LiveWire* and in future issues of this publication. Meanwhile, plan to make it a year to celebrate barbershop in your own home town!



2013





# Fight the winter blahs with Midw

# 2013 will be a growth year for the Youth Chorus Festival!

As of this writing, 16 choruses have already signed on to participate, with many more also expressing interest. With a popular destination like Orlando, you know it's going to be great! The excitement is building as the numbers add up! We could get as many as 700 guys on the stage this year!

# **Seniors quartet competition!**

These tried-and-true quartetters will be showing the youngsters that you can keep singing your whole life and have a bunch of fun doing it! These guys have the power and charisma to wow an audience, and it's always a great show!

# **Great performances from last year's medalists!**

The Swedish barbershop ambassadors to North America, **Ringmasters** and **Lemon Squeezy**, will be coming back as will one of America's finest vocal ensembles (featur-

ing a familiar Barbershopper!) **Liberty Voices**. Silver and bronze quartet medalists **Musical Island Boys**, **A Mighty Wind**, **Masterpiece**, and **Main Street** will return as well to complete the show!

# **Easy-going schedule makes for more casual singing!**

Sing a tag or woodshed with someone new from across the country, or seek out your old buds and sing all night. "Make new friends, but keep the old," as the old song goes, "one is silver and the other gold."





# inter magic!



# "Skip" Toronto 2013? Members of the **Barbershop Harmony Society Face**book group each have their "reasons"

Top tongue-in-cheek reasons to skip the 2013 International Convention in Toronto (presented primarily by folks who would crawl over broken glass to attend):

- All songs must be sung in the key of "eh?" Chris MacMartin
- It's Toronto. Nobody wants to sing in the venue where the Maple Leafs suck. John Newell
- Afraid I'll get caught on the webcast singing "O' Canada .... watermelon watermelon ..." Paul Agnew
- I still haven't figured that whole Euro conversion thing out yet and I don't want to look dumb ... Hey, is that metric or centigrade, anyway? Ann Monaghan McAlexander
- I'm afraid if I leave the USA, they won't let me back across the border. I'm just sayin'! Ken Custer
- Afraid of Canada's exotic foreign customs ... did you hear they sell their milk in bags? Lorin May
- Who would dare to compete against The Northern Lights on their home ice? Steve Bangham
- One mile equals 1.6 kilometers. Does that mean it will take 60% longer to get anywhere in Canada? Paul Agnew
- Rosetta Stone doesn't sell a language course for "Canadian." Lorin May
- Too many letters in the Canadian alphabet. A-eh, B-eh, C-eh ... Paul Agnew
- To get a Sam Adams you have to pay for an Imported beer! Joe Cosgrove
- That awkward moment when the Society convention and contest, celebrating an American artform, is won by a quartet from New Zealand ... in Canada. Paul Agnew
- Have panic attacks upon seeing those horse dudes who dress like Dudley Do-Right. Also, whenever hearing the words "Dudley Do-Right." Lorin May
- C&J Category Specialists forced to put out policy letters on how to score icing and offsides. Paul Agnew
- The beer is too good for Americans to handle. John Newell
- It's in Toronto, the Toledo of Canada. Rob Topolski
- I'm afraid instead of the New York, "Hey, how'ya doin'?", I'll come back saying, "How are you doin', eh?" Still going anyway. Rich Schlaegel
- Each contestant must sing one song in French each set to abide by the national language laws. Chris MacMartin
- U.S. officials ask serious questions about cult-ism when you come back with a pin and a medal you didn't leave with. Ashley York
- All 4/4 songs need to be converted to 10.6/10.6. Pat
- The top 5 quartets will be renamed to:
  - Maîtres d'anneau
  - Petits garçons de l'Île de musique
  - Un vent impétueux
  - Chef-d-oeuvre
  - Rue Principale *Jonathan Foster*





The 10 highest-scoring chapters in the 2011 Chapter Achievement program are all growing and reporting high member satisfaction. Some are well-known on the contest stage while others are not. Along with an internal focus on a healthy chapter life, these groups are also focused on making a positive impact in their communities and are partaking of many of the benefits the Society has to offer. Here are their stories in their own words.

# Chapters in Balance

# 1. Louisville, Ky. No 1 (CAR) Thoroughbred Chorus

www.thoroughbredchorus.com

We are a "chapter" and not a "chorus." True, we once won seven Internationals and were trendsetters in the Society's early years, but we have endured where other excellent singing choruses have not because we have come to realize that what we have far exceeds the gold medals we have won. We have many leaders, both with and without official titles, and a strong

financial foundation. Our new director, Andrew Wheaton, has raised the bar and the level of expectations, causing a stir within the Louisville area and helping bring back many quality former members. A strong feeling of belonging and brotherhood extends beyond rehearsals, with many men choosing to stay after rehearsals to enjoy additional fellowship.

What the stats don't tell: The hard work, dedication and tenacity of an ever-changing core group that has kept the brotherhood of the chapter its primary focus. Every man of good character is welcome, whether he can sing or not. Some great chapter members have never sung a note with us. We could have a rehearsal on any day at any time and at least 80% of the members would show up. There is a new, positively-charged energy generated by our new director and from new and returning members, including some of the most talented men in the Society. The combination of youth and experience, talent and tenacity has boosted



the world that the Thoroughbreds are back!

**Looking forward:** This is the most exciting time for the chorus in decades. We went

outside the box and selected a talented 27-year-old ahead of much bigger names, and he has has reignited our desire to excel and be competitive. We look forward to more local partnerships, increased attendance at our shows, and to strive to change lives. We can't become too enthralled with the small successes we've achieved so far. We must fill the needs of each individual member, particularly newer members, embrace social media and reach out in the community. We need to go into the cauldron of competition and use the white-hot fire of criticism to improve our resolve. There are many mountains to climb.

# 2. Western Hills, Ohio (JAD) The Southern Gateway Chorus www.southerngateway.org

The Western Hills Chapter (Southern Gateway Chorus) has had an outstanding year in many regards. We have more members and we have increased our connection to other Cincinnati area arts organizations and to people influential in the arts world. We have been working for several years to become more integral to the local arts community rather than simply an organization siloed in our special musical genre. A huge propellant this year has been the 2012 World Choir Games, which took place in Cincinnati this summer. Last year, we helped promote the coming Games by performing at a professional tennis tournament, luncheons, and for a Fortune 500 company. We also initiated a series of "choral group luncheons" to plan collaborations with other local vocal ensembles. A local foundation that supports the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Opera has chosen Southern Gateway as their vocal group to support. Life is good in Cincinnati!

**Chapter's biggest strength:** The talent and involvement of our members, from top-notch directors and judges to each man who chooses to share the work of running a successful organization that is a positive impact on our local community.

What the stats don't tell you: Southern Gateway remains an organization who

Chapter leaders provided data on activities in 30 categories (roughly outlined in sidebar on page 15), roughly broken down into the five categories on the right. For a full description of what was tablulated, and to see how your chapter did this year, go to barbershop.org/chapter-achievementprogram.html.



welcomes any man of good character to pursue his love of singing. We remain a chorus that not only chooses to welcome select singers, but to allow any man to find out for himself if he can be part of this family of singers constantly striving to wow our audiences.

Looking forward: The Western Hills Chapter will continue to pursue being an integral part of the Cincinnati arts culture and a contributor to the welfare of our community. Cities where the arts are vibrant and relevant are those that succeed and grow. Our goal is to be an increasingly significant part of that picture.



# **2010 Chapter Achievement** survey data

Hundreds of reporting chapters earned points based on their 2011 experiences according to the below

- experienced membership growth
- established or reviewed a formal membership orientation program
- performed within the community (non-chapter) shows) with at least 1/3 of chapter members performing
- performed for free at least once within the community
- hosted formal chapter shows
- received Standing Ovation Program critiques
- had a Singing Valentines program
- hosted Singing For Life blood drives
- participated in Youth In Harmony events or projects
- had a website and/or Facebook page
- · created or reviewed their mission statement
- participated in Leadership Academy
- held board meetings
- held music team meetings
- listed their chapter leaders in eBiz.barbershop.ora
- filed their required financial forms
- gave money to Harmony Foundation or Sing-Canada
- gave money to charities as a chapter
- had non-competing chapter members at an international convention
- had non-competing chapter members at a district convention
- competed at least once
- had chapter members in a district quartet contest
- · hosted chapter social events with at least 1/3 chapter members attendina
- participated in at least one Society program: YiH, CACM, CDWI, Next Level, Music Mentor
- participated in some kind of quartetting activity each week
- gave out awards
- produced a chapter bulletin
- had a chapter member attend Harmony U



# 3. Mankato, Minn. (LOL) Mankato Riverblenders

www.singmankato.com

Chapter's biggest strength: After last year's article, we hoped everyone in the Society would read our secret and race to the top. Actually, our biggest strength is no secret: we love our community and we spend time singing here. A big example is our Church Singout program, a great way to bring Barbershop Harmony to communities all across our region.

What the stats don't tell you: Coordinating five to seven church singouts on Sunday morning all summer long is an example of the magic happening behind the scenes. Everyone pitches in. Singing well and having fun happens when everyone shares in the work and leadership to run a chapter and serve the community.

**Looking forward:** Our biggest challenge is to build upon our success by attracting and retaining new members. On that score, we're hoping that all chapters are racing for the top!

# 4. Wilmington, N.C. (NSC)

Cape Fear Chordsmen www.capefearchordsmen.com

Chapter's biggest strength: Our core of roughly 40 good singers are willing to assume leadership roles and participate in chapter activities. We are also blessed with an excellent director.

What the stats don't tell you: The chapter has a program that provides sing-outs to various assisted living facilities in our area. While this program generates no chapter revenue and probably attracts no new members, we feel it is an excellent way to give back to our community by bringing joy to those less fortunate.

**Looking forward:** Based on the ages of our chapter members, our biggest challenge is to attract younger members



who can maintain the momentum we presently enjoy. In order to achieve this, we are making plans to improve our meeting agendas and utilize targeted PR efforts.





# 5. Grand Rapids, Mich. (PIO)

**Great Lakes Chorus** www.greatlakeschorus.org

**Chapter's biggest strength:** As one of the Society's oldest chapters, the Great Lakes Chorus has always been known for its long-term history in our Society. Our community outreach and youth programs have made a difference in its growth. Our welcoming chapter meetings have a balance of fun and discipline by showing prospective new members that we are serious about both education and competition, while harboring fellowship and commitment to our membership.

What the stats don't tell you: This chapter achieves high marks for our

involvement in Society programs too, such as Sing for Life, I Sing, Harold Hill and donations to the Harmony Foundation. Our committment to the District includes board involvement and events such as annual end-of-summer corn roast where other Pioneer chapters come to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship with current and retired society members, and bring their friends or guests to introduce them to the brotherhood of Harmony known as Barbershop.





# 6. Atlanta Metro, Ga. (DIX)

**Atlanta Vocal Project** 

www.atlantavocalproject.com

**Chapter's biggest strength:** Providing a meaningful music program. We keep our repertoire fresh by making sure we sing through each current song at least once or twice within the month. That way, we are not always working on the same two or three songs all the time. We have music team leadership that makes sure we are all working toward the same goal of musical excellence.

What the stats don't tell you: The impact of our small group coaching sessions throughout the year. The small group and even one-on-one vocal lessons by director Clay Hine and music educator Lars Grevstad help each member become more comfortable in singing and improve the ensemble sound. Also, each year we try to have a multi-chapter meeting where all the Atlanta area chapters can meet and sing together. We have started an annual barbecue in May for all Atlanta area barbershoppers (BHS, SAI and HI)

Looking forward: We keep looking for more ways to get involved in the community, including frequent outreach to the city in which we rehearse. This has been a win-win situation. The city benefits from quality entertainment and we gain from the exposure of our craft to the public. We are a chapter that looks forward to competition. Competition helps you see where you are and how you can improve.







# 8. Simcoe, Ont. (ONT) Simcoe Gentlemen of Harmony www.gentlemenofharmony.com

Chapter's biggest strength: Over the past several years, our top priority has been to help more men in our community share with us the joy of creating close harmony. We've found success with the Society's Job One Membership program, and this year we've taken one chapter meeting a month as a "Guest Night." The complete program of each "Guest Night" is designed to make our guests feel special and to share with them the joy of learning a new song and ringing chords in four-part harmony. Every guest gets to sing a part of a new song in an octet to a happy round of applause.

What the stats don't tell you: Our membership is growing largely due to the friendly, welcoming feeling that pervades all

# 7. Papillion, Neb. (CSD)

www.sarpyserenaders.com

Chapter's biggest strength: We have fun at meetings and we love to perform. We're starting back to regular competition, but not at the expense of having *fun* and performing for our public. Last year, the Chapter performed more than 30 times and we are well ahead of that pace this year. Key performances include tour groups, Annual Show, Barbershop Extravaganza, and a Christmas Show. Enough? Just getting started! Add Christmas Wassailing, Senior Care Centers, Singing Valentines, National Anthem performances, Holiday ceremonies, singing for Church services, and you get the picture. The value of what we do is hard to quantify unless you count the large number of lives we touch each year.

**What the stats don't tell you:** Member commitment and teamwork is key to success, but none of our success would have been possible without Jim Griffith—our Chapter's beloved founding father, story-teller, baritone, and quartet member. His love for barbershop is as fresh today as it was when he started 50 years ago.

**Looking forward:** One area we are constantly striving to improve is our interpretation of music. Most, if not all, barbershop music revolves around telling a story to our audience. Chuck Greene's methods have helped us in that regard and it is an ongoing process.





the chapter activities. Everyone is made to feel valued and empowered to make beautiful music regardless of vocal skill level. The new members join for the fun, the laughter and the good times but

they stay for the music. Every member of the chapter wants to be a better singing performer and that leads to an ongoing focus on basic singing skills. Each meeting night includes an opportunity to become an independent singer and hold your own part with three others in a quartet.

**Looking forward:** Our next challenge is to improve our singing level to qualify for International competition. Our chapter has taken the initiative over the past couple of years to revive an activity from the past that has disappeared in Ontario District—the "interchapter visit"—and our efforts seem to be spreading. Our chapter is a fun place to be!





# 9. Bloomington, III. (ILL)

www.soundofillinois.com

**Chapter's biggest strength:** We have built and are building a strong leadership team, including administrative and musical teams, which agree on goals and activities of the group.

What the stats don't tell you: Having just qualified for the sixth consecutive year for international competition and climbing into the top 20 the past two contests, we're proud of the fact that our chorus takes all comers. We have no rules or proficiency requirements (not even attendance) to perform with our chorus in shows or in

**Looking forward:** Once again, the theme is finding a balance between hard work and play. We coach, we celebrate birthdays, we work on the risers for two+ hours every Tuesday, and we find time to socialize. We're looking forward to our 14th Annual Central Illinois Youth in Harmony Festival. These kids are the future, and we're at capacity with over 250 women and 160 men.

# 10. Santa Rosa, Calif. (FWD)

Redwood Chordsmen

chordsmen.groupanizer.com

**Chapter's biggest strength:** We'll never miss a chance to compete, but we are absolutely not a contest chorus; we're all about our community. We perform in public at least once per month, we have a booth at the local farmers market, and we join with our local Sweet Adelines to offer a barbershop day camp for families in the summer.

What the stats don't tell you: We are an inclusive chorus. We don't audition anybody out of the chorus; instead, we help them improve. We offer a comfortable and challenging home for all singers, young and old, novice and professional, serious or casual. Keeping everyone engaged is the key. We'll probably never compete at International, but as long as we can sing in the 70s, our friends and neighbors will love hearing us and continue to support us and join in.

**Looking forward:** Our goal is to become a 100-man chorus by 2015 by making sure that every week at every chapter meeting every member has fun, accomplishes or learns something, and feels a sense of belonging.





# Swipes 'n' Swaps

"New director" ads are free in *The Harmonizer* (first 50 words) to Society chapters. Additional copy for director ads, or other ads for uniforms and risers are \$25 per column inch. Send to harmonizer@barbershop.org.

# **DIRECTOR WANTED**

The **Davenport**. **Iowa Chapter** seeks a musical director to lead its male barbershop chorus. Emphasis is on quality singing and comraderie. Experience in the artform is preferred. Contact Amos Glanz, (563) 650-3884, chordsrus@msn.com for more info.



# UNIFORMS FOR SALE

30-35 used, black tuxedos with vests and white shirts. Free for the price of shipping. Contact 715-483-3152 or *mdnelson55@ vahoo.com* for more information.

36 green combination cummerbund/bow tie sets. Excellent Condition! \$360 for 36 sets. Contact Pride Of Iowa Chorus, Dave Carlson, dsmdave@aol.com OR 515-267-9636.





# "What the world needs now is love, sweet love"

hat song was a big hit back in 1965, and Barbershoppers can convey that sentiment in song like nobody else on this coming Valentines Day! Start laying the groundwork now to make 2013, the Society's 75th Anniversary, your best year ever. (Sing for a couple during their own 75th anniversary year and we'll publish it!)

Download the Successful Singing Valentines manual at www.barbershop.org/valentines and check out the tips we've included on the next page. Get out your files and notes from last year and see what worked well for you. Educate any new guys on your procedures and get them ready. For a lot of Barbershoppers, this is the most fun they have all year, as well as a great PR, marketing and chapter income opportunity. Following are some highlights from 2012.

# **Longest-distance Singing Valentine and most unusual** venue? The Finish Line quartet (Louisville, Ky.,

CAR) let me take Dave Schroeder's place to sing to

my daughter Rachel and friends, 11,590 miles away in southern China via Skype. The only

quiet place we could find to sing from was the ladies' powder room in Jim Miller Hall.

– Warren Donaldson, Louisville, Ken. response from the wife, though the husband was quite emotional. Tenor Fred Henke reached over and put their hands together. The husband immediately held her hand tightly, but she just stared into space. Finally, as we neared the end of our song, her eyes went to his and she mouthed "I love you." Says Fred,

"Mission accomplished!" − Bob Fisher, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Twenty-eight** Singing **Valentines** delivered in one event. The Beaufort. S.C., Harbormasters (NSC) approached the Familv Readiness Officer at Air Station Beau-



St. Croix Valley Chapter Stillwater MN quartet sings to first grade teacher. L. to R.: Ed Obermeyer-Kolb, Don Paulson, Tyler Smith & Dave Erickson.

fort for help in planning a free surprise Singing Valentine's event for sixteen wives of and twelve children of Marines who were deployed to Afghanistan. Every base has a Family Readiness Officer, so any chapter close to a military installation can do this extremely worthwhile project.

Tim McGrath, Beaufort, S.C.



Prettier packages, newfangled QR Code and old-fash-

**ioned touching moment.** This year, seven quartets of the Harrisburg, Pa. Chapter (MAD) delivered 116 Singing Valentines in one day-40% more than in 2011. More than one-third of our gigs were ordered electronically, thanks in part to the use of the Quick Response Code (QR Code) scanned by smart phone users from promotional posters and to our chapter website. We also spiffed up the package we delivered. We put Hershey's kisses in stylish bags with colorful ribbon, scrolled our show ticket voucher and tied

it with ribbon, and included a stuffed Valentine bear.

At one visit, the **Union** Station quartet sang to an elderly couple in a retirement home, getting absolutely no



The Palm Harbor Chapter, Fla (SUN) fulfilled a customer request to sing for his barber at this quaint shop featuring ancient photos and signs.



JERRY DAIKER

Scan this OR code with your mobile device to go straight to www.singingvalentines.com. **Learn how** to create a **OR** code fo vour own website at tinvurl.com/ ORFeb14.



# Tips for Singing Valentines Success

- Download a copy of the Singing Valentines Manual (web shortcut: tiny.cc/vz8oh).
- Register your chapter at www.singingvalentines.com.
- Contact all previous givers and recipients as well as patrons of your annual shows via flyers, e-mails, and phone calls. Think about the other clubs and groups your members belong to and have them take flyers to meetings. Ask to get on the schedule at Rotary, Lions and other such clubs at least two weeks in advance, offering a free Valentine as a door prize.
- Contact radio and TV stations and book quartets to appear; give them plenty of lead time, and offer the station a free Valentine to their listeners—first caller wins!
- Include a QR (Quick Response) code on your posters and flyers
- · Alert the media in advance if one of your recipients is a prominent citizen or someone with a "back story" that would spark additional interest.
- Don't hesitate to take a chance and call or drop in a TV or radio station on the spur of the moment—it has worked before! Just be prepared for a likely "no."
- Contact local hotels and restaurants that often offer Valentine's packages to suggest an "add-on."
- Contact hospitals, businesses, nursing homes and other locations where they might book you for an "employee appreciation" gesture.
- · Contact florists, candy suppliers, wineries and order needed supplies.
- Arrange for a special phone line for orders if needed.
- Communication is vital on delivery day. Be sure to have a cell phone number for each quarte, and ensure that each phone is on and charged all day, set to vibrate so that no performance is interrupted.

- Determine in advance who will drive and set reimbursement plans for travel costs.
- Audition quartets—spend time mixing and matching voices for the best blend, and make sure they attain the standard by a pre-determined January date. Those who don't sing in quartets can help with scheduling and communication and other key roles.
- As the saying goes, "presentation is everything!" Dress as formally as possible in matching costume; smile for the entire performance and be just as lively for the last one as you were for the first.
- Rehearse the "show" from start to finish at your chapter meeting—how to enter, what to say and do, how to leave. Lingering too long is a no-no—leave them wanting more instead of less, especially if it's in the workplace.
- Be ready to take orders at the drop of a hat—have contact cards ready to hand out at each stop if requested.
- Take a digital camera or camera phone and send a photo to the recipient.
- Include chapter business cards with each delivery of roses, and bring extras to hand to inquiring onlookers.
- Consider giving tickets to your spring show to premium Valentine recipients as a way of building your fan base. Scroll the voucher and tie it with ribbon.
- Consider advertising on local sports radio programs even up to the last day, to capture those last-minute "Oh I forgot Valentine's Day" guys.
- Make a barber pole sign to place at your table during afterglows and hand out your Singing Valentine's business cards to anyone who asks (See Stay Tuned, page 29 of this issue for a photo).





# Toronto and Alexandria perform in China

With great enthusiasm, the **Toronto Northern Lights** Chorus (ONT) accepted an invitation to join the Alexandria Harmonizers (MAD) in Beijing, China, to perform on Sept. 7, 2012 at the Forbidden City Concert Hall, located in a former Chinese imperial garden.

On the morning before our concert, both choruses gathered on the western

steps leading into the Temple of Heaven to rehearse our combined set. Just prior to meeting up, the Northern Lights discovered an informal Chinese mixed choir of about 200 singing beautiful harmony in a forested area near the steps. This casual group, comprised mainly of retirees, performed several selections that would rival many choruses in our Society. Standing among them, we gained a deeper sense of how music creates community.

Shortly after that, the Harmonizers and the Northern Lights began to gather on the steps; at the same time, the choir finished singing and many of the singers gathered at the base of the steps to listen to our group perform several barbershop selections. They all became instant fans, shouting for our group to perform more songs. At one point, members of the crowd were jumping in front of the chorus to have photos taken with members of the front row. It was quite an amazing cultural exchange.

That evening, both choruses performed to a very appreciative and energetic audience at the Forbidden City Concert Hall. The joint chorus performed several barbershop songs, notably the Alexandria Harmonizers' arrangement of "I'll Be Seeing You" and the Toronto

Northern Lights rendition of "The Circle of Life," featuring the TNL chapter quartet Chameleon. The chorus also sang "Rainbow Sister," a Chinese children's song, which the audience immediately recognized and began to clap along with as we sang it in their native language.

After the performance, in true barbershop style, we held an



afterglow at one of our hotels. As we talked and sang tags, nothing seemed out of the ordinary until we paused for and realized we were halfway around the world in a ballroom in Beijing, China. It was great to share the stage and an evening of song with such an awesome group.

The following day, our tour guides were so inspired by our performances that they each spontaneously offered to sing for their respective tour bus groups over the bus PA systems. To our surprise and delight, they performed exceptionally well, each offering up a story behind the songs before singing them to us.

Both groups also separately performed at the Great Wall of China. Standing on the risers set up for the performance, we faced enormous mountains, while the Great Wall straddling it up and beyond the peak. It was, by all accounts, the greatest distraction of all time. That said, each chorus performed a wonderful selection of barbershop music for a curious crowd of onlookers that grew throughout the performance. Once the performance was finished, the only thing left to do was climb the wall, get to highest point, and of course sing a tag on top of

The next day, many members began the long journey

home while others continued to explore different cities in China for several more days. We can all agree it was a lifechanging experience to visit China, and for the people who were touched by our music, we hope we accomplished the same. Who knows, maybe the next time you hear that choir in the forest, they might be singing a barbershop classic like "My Wild Irish Rose." ■

> - Chris Scappatura, Northern Lights Chorus



**Combined rehearsal at the Forbidden City Concert Hall** 

# With new vision, chorus more than doubles in size

he Redwood Chordsmen chorus of Santa Rosa, Calif. has been around since 1965, but this year they have witnessed their finest burst of growth in their 47-year history.

Over time, the chapter has tried several of the programs promoted via Operation Harold Hill, but this growth was built on one over-arching theme: the members envisioned a chapter not designed to win contests, but designed to serve the community (1) by singing well and often, and (2) by offering a home to all sincere singers, regardless of their skill level.

"We knew that we had to make weekly chapter meetings so fun and energizing that everyone would want to come back each week. So we did ... and they did!" said Shelly Albaum, editor of their chapter newsletter. "What we did *not* anticipate was that once we got our program in shape, our existing members were *much* more comfortable inviting their friends, colleagues and co-workers to come have a listen."

In June 2012, chapter members hosted a textbook guest night, which brought out 40 men who wanted to learn more about barbershop. Each was greeted in a receiving line with a handshake and information. Several tables displayed photographs and scrapbook articles showcasing the chapter, and each guest was given a personalized hard-bound folder consisting of historical information on the chapter, the district and the Society, plus sheet music for BarberPole Cat songs, CDs and their newsletter. Members also showed the 12-minute movie, Singing Is Life.

Most important, the membership team followed up on the successful guest night with e-mails and handwritten thank-you cards to each guest and phone calls.

Other key elements in the success of the chapter's weekly meetings are:

- an active quartet program (including Barber-Pole Cat program) so that advanced singers can stay engaged and challenged
- widely varied repertoire to satisfy all tastes
- convenient weekly afterglow for maximum quarteting
- always preparing for an upcoming performance
- never over-preparing for a show or contest in a boring way
- a weekly newsletter reminding everyone what they did last, what they're doing next, and

One year ago, the Santa Rosa chapter had 26 members; now they stand at 58 and counting. "It should be noted," says Chapter Historian Ray Crowder, "that we recently won the Northwest California Divisional Championship, and we have used this to our advantage, spreading the word. Many of our new members are under 25, which bodes well for our chapter and for the Society."

"We're still relative beginners at this, and we are always trying out new things," Albaum continued, "but we believe that this formula will allow us to grow to more than 100 members in two or three years from now."



# When a guy says, "Here, take my car," you know he means business.

In an effort to drum up attention for the local barbershop community, Rich Pilch, a member of the Lake Lanier, Ga. Chapter (DIX) since 1970, donated his car to the cause. Cindy Gillim, wife of Terry Gillim, who sings bass with Rich's quartet Sweet Tea, mentioned that she would love to have a car on which to do some Sharpie artwork, similar to a photo she had seen of a Lamborghini. Pilch offered her his 1995 Ford Probe and said "go for it!"

The result was a barbershop design that starts with the opening measures of "Keep the Whole World Singing" on the hood of the car, flowing over the top and all the way to the trunk, including barber poles, notes, the Society logo and even two pitch pipes on the headlight covers.

Pilch says, "When it's parked in public, I often come back to my car to find someone having their picture taken with it. It especially attracts young guys. Very few people can actually figure out what the design is. So I put a sign in my back window that says 'I Sing Barbershop' and then, they get it."





# Two "Great American Pastimes" merge nicely

Baseball and barbershop—two older pastimes that never go out of style and go great together!

The Pretzel City Chorus of the Reading, Pa. Chapter (MAD) is





shown left on the big screen performing the National Anthem for the Philadelphia/St. Louis game Aug. 10.

**Serendipity** quartet (FWD) (far left) led a crowd of nearly 44,000 fans in singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in San Francisco during a "Turn Back the Century" promotion for the team's 100th anniversary in June. Pictured are Paul Goldsmith, Dale Steinmann, Fred Merrick and Norm Reynolds. Serendipity and **Marintones** entertained both at the main entrances welcoming fans and between innings from the infield. Players wore throwback uniforms, announcements were made via megaphone, and music was played on an organ. The scoreboard was turned off and peanuts were sold for a nickel.

The Alexandria Harmonizers (MAD) were the featured entertainment for the 40th Annual Jefferson Awards for Public Service at Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. They closed the show, marching down the aisles singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic," then backing up a navy chaplain singing "Climb

Every Mountain." The star-studded audience gave them two standing ovations during the set, which also included "God Bless America," "Great Day" and a "Jersey Boys" medley. The Jefferson Awards is an elite national recognition system honoring community and public service in America.



# Timeline of a barbershop love story: at the end, he marries the President's daughter

October 2010: **Santa Monica Oceanaires** put on holiday show. Chapter President's daughter, Katie Walker, sets up bake sale. Tim Boeck (son of founding Oceanaire, "Doc" Boeck) spots Katie.

December 2010: Chapter ensemble sings holiday gig at Cedars Sinai Hospital, where Katie works. Tim asks for number. Tim calls.

First date: a lot of harmony

2011: A year of yada yada ... sparks fly ... Let Me Call You Sweetheart!

February 2011: Romantic proposal July 8, 2012. Wedding officiated by Oceanaire's Secretary and incoming President, Rev. Wally Meese. Of course, a chapter quartet sang at the wedding.



# Attract public attention at your restaurant after-glow with "reserved" sign



It's like an "I Sing" button for your group's table. Keith Phemister, bass with the Main Street Harmonizers in Lexington County, S.C., created this "Reserved" sign for their afterglows at restaurants. It is made from PVC and paint and measures about 9 1/2" x 2 3/8" in diameter, with slots cut on the top end to hold your sign. Other restaurant guests ask about it as they pass by, and The Harmonizers break into song to explain who they are, and have business cards ready to hand out. Works great for building Singing Valentine's business, show audiences and potential members.

# **CHAPTER ETERNAL**

Society members reported as deceased between Aug. 15 and Oct. 15, 2012. E-mail updates to membership@barbershop.org.

# Cardinal Paul Holladay Lafayette, IN

**Central States** Carl French

Leavenworth, KS Carl French Kansas City, MO Far Western

Dixie

Jerry Bradwell Chattanooga, TN Greater Phoe-Colin Few Memphis, TN William Parker Macon, GA Mike Testa Greater Atlanta, GA Lake Lanier GA **Thomas Watts** Macon, GA

**Evergreen** Scott Belanger Yakima, WA Scott Belanger Columbia Basin. WARoss Stover

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Illinois

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**Sunshine** 

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www.menc.org

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The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (DBA Barbershop Harmony Society) is a non-profit organization operating in the United States and Canada.

# Mission

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

# Vision

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



# A tag you will soon perform in public

t won't be long before Barbershoppers start planning for their Singing Valentines activities. One of our finest arrangers, former Society Music Publications Editor Burt Szabo, recently sent me a very easy tag that can be added to your performances. It makes for a lovely ending to most any love song that is pitched between G and C. Of



course, the tag would match the key of the song that precedes it.

If you haven't experienced the great fun of delivering Singing Valentines, it's high time for you to get involved. Read the article on page 24-25 this issue, register your group at www.singingvalentines. com and download the Successful Singing Valentines manual at www.barbershop. org/valentines. And ... you can add this neat tag by Burt to your performances!

# **VALENTINE'S DAY TAG**

for Let Me Call You Sweetheart or Heart of My Heart, or any other Bb or Ab song. This tag, of course, should be sung in the same key as the song it follows.





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