# HARMONIER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



INSIDE: How the VM got its mojo back. The scientific approach to voice training. Reflections of a 70-year member



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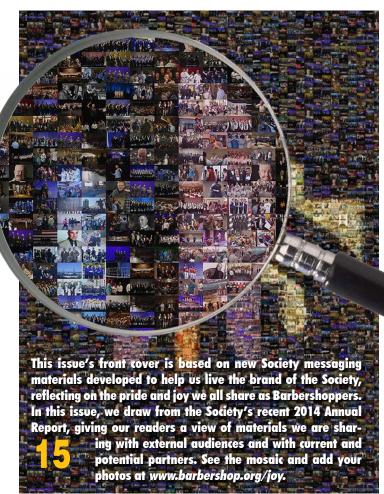


## Features

More from our Storytellers Chapters that teamed up to provide Singing Valentines to women prisoners can't wait to do it again, and the Chattanooga

chapter delivers the photo of the year.

- The VM's mojo returns
  Two silver medals in a row could have sent the mighty Vocal Majority in a downward spiral. Instead, like a family, the chorus redoubled its focus on non-contest priorities. PHIL McShan, THE VOCAL MAJORITY
- Welcome new members! We welcome the Society's newest members and say thank you to their wonderful recruiters!
- Freeman Groat at 70 years
  One of a handful of 70-year+ members, Freeman has seen and done a lot since he joined in 1945, directed his first of seven choruses starting at age 15, and why the airman hid in a car trunk every week to sneak from Mississippi to Alabama! MEL JOESTEN, MUSIC CITY CHORUS



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"After You've Gone"

Don Fuson, Society President • dfuson@barbershop.org

## Why use your looking glass, anyway?

he year 2015 is quickly passing us by.

Each of us can think about some significant chapter accomplishments that we attained in 2014, and perhaps in the first half of 2015. The consistent challenge is to reenergize ourselves and our chapters to reach our remaining 2015 goals. We can already be looking for, scoping out, identifying, and planning for those "audacious and outlandish" goals for 2016.

It is an on-going process: Conceive. Enhance. Select. Clarify. Plan. Communicate. Execute. Monitor. Modify. Execute some more. Conclude. Measure results against expectations.

Those stages might be some of the steps in building a successful planning cycle that will involve the Society and every local chapter member to prioritize and sup-

I continue to be most impressed with the experience and talent of the Society members around me. To those I know who have gone before me in helping our own local chapters, we all have a serious "thank you" for your leadership. To those who have yet to step up

to lead, but have the potential vision and leadership that will be necessary, we offer a sincere invitation to assist "where you are" and help others grow and see the potential visions for the future.

Take a big, audacious goal and break it down. Then break it down again, and again. **Determine** what you define as success ahead of time.

#### What does your yardstick look like?

"Every member" involvement and success for your own chapter, quartet, and/or chorus can exist in many forms and can be measured in many ways. Every opportunity to continue to develop our vocal skills puts each one in a position to master our songs which lead to our inspired performances. But (and there is always or often a "but" in the planning) each member may define success differently. They may use a differ-

ence metric. Their "yardstick" may not be the same as your own.

The bad news? Both measures may be inadequate and not covering the (unstated) expectations of the other members around you.

The good news? Elements within both ideas and measures may help us to identify the more complete target, and engage more members to work and accomplish the goals.

Our most successful chapters have a multi-point vardstick:

- 1) involve each member in doing his best and sharing the fun of the harmony goals with guests.
- 2) master and re-master successful singing, leaning

on directors and coaches to develop each singer within the unit sound of the chorus.

3) balance internal efforts for known members and audiences with the external efforts that represent the future opportunities for new members/singers and new community collaborations and performances.

#### Why worry about my looking glass?

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to

"I don't much care where -"

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go."

- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

Your own "looking glass" may well reflect new membership growth, membership retention, having new opportunities to perform to new audiences, and just perhaps having the most successful chapter show in recent memory! Reach out to a chapter that has been successful in one or two or all four of these areas and "borrow with honor" an idea or two for your local boards to discuss and embrace. (Okay, "steal" an idea!)

The "looking glass" will tell us that we have a lot of member experiences we can build on. The glass will also shed some light on areas that we might "like" to get into, but we are unsure of the right first steps to take along that path.

Take a big, audacious goal and break it down. Then break it down again, and again. Finally, take the simple step in front of you, which may be accomplished in a suitable time, building on the local resources, and determining what you have already defined as success ahead of time.

#### Your path is (always) in front of you

"I can't go back to yesterday because I was a different person then."

- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

If Lewis Carroll would come and join my chapter, he might see a better vardstick to use tomorrow. It is up to us to listen for and recognize the possibilities that are there!

Let's SHARE YOUR MUSIC and sing together in 2015 and beyond!

dfuson@barbershop.org

Marty Monson • Society CEO • mmonson@barbershop.org

## Always remember, it's about the Joy of Singing

From a new member

It is amazing to me how passionate the mem-

bers of this chorus are and how willing they

are to share the love and joy of music. This is

not "just a choir." With other choirs you show

up, bury your head in the music, the director

bangs parts out on the piano, only about half

the choir gets it right, you get frustrated, you

go home and do it all again the next week.

feel like I am being treated as a professional,

even though no one really knows my level of

then we come together as a group to make it

what amazes me. You guys actually go home

and learn the parts and rehearsals, so far as I

know, are not spent pounding out parts while

And then there is all the extra stuff, the

community outreach, the focus on improving

voices and not just leveling off. I like that we

take time to learn about our instruments and

focus is on the music and giving the members

not just sing the same way every night. The

the tools to preform that music at a higher

All in all, I am having a blast and it is

exactly the chorus that I want to be a part of.

If there is any way I can get more involved,

please let me know.

other sections sit in complete silence.

My chorus is about more. SO much more. I

artistry. It's up to individuals to learn their parts,

sound awesome. And the members DO IT. That's

rooted in singing.

inging is at the root of our passion. For us, that passion is applied to a style of Americana music called Barbershop. But we never forget that our passion is

Have you ever had a time where you can't get one of those songs out of your head and you want to go to sleep? Or a tag (end of a song) that you could sing 100 times over and over and never get tired of ringing every chord, perhaps a little differently than before? (Apologies to my wife!) But after you sing, you feel recharged and invigorated again. That singing helped you be a better man and a better support for your spouse, parents, siblings and

co-workers!

All of this is rooted in the joy of singing. Isn't that why we sing along to music in the car? When we work out? When we are

> hosting a little neighborhood get-together? Do you have music in the background, and then occasionally someone starts singing

along? What if all of that went away?



Singing helped you be a better man and a better support for your spouse, parents, siblings and coworkers!

#### The value our members bring

Our 2014 annual report demonstrates just some of the value of activities that our 22,000 member/artists share through lifelong singing in our nearly 800 commu-

nities in North America. We love to sing and especially ring that barbershop chord. So much so that we've all been known to sing all night long, even when we are in our 80s! Now there is wellness!

For the Joy—that comes from singing. We all love to hit the stage and wow the crowd. It's what we do. It's what we're known for. And every time we do—trophy or no trophy—we're making a difference in people's lives.

#### For the Joy—that comes from joining together.

We come from different places and different backgrounds. Yet when we come together, we share something that is bigger than any of us alone.

> Something that is making a difference in people's lives.

For the Joy—that comes from genuine friendships. Real friends are forged, not forced. Growing and learning from each other binds people together in powerful moments. It makes a real difference in people's lives.

#### For the Joy—that comes from making a difference in people's lives.

We're a worldwide movement of Barbershoppers who are passionate about singing and performing. And

who take great iov—and unabashed pride—in touching people with our music, and making a difference in their lives.

For those 22,000 members, pat yourself on the back. We had a fantastic year. and the future looks bright.

For those reading about us for the first time, we welcome you with open arms. And remember, if you're interested in getting more people singing in your community, give our organization an opportunity. We are here to help.

A Better World. Singing.

#### What's in Marty's Daytimer?

- July 21, 2016 Annual Kick-off meetings, Nashville
- July 26-Aug 1, Harmony University, Nashville
- Aug 8-11, ASAE Annual Mtg & Exposition, Detroit,
- Aug 25, Metro Arts, Nashville
- · Aug 27-28, APCC Meeting, Nashville
- Sept 11-12, HFI Annual Board of Trustees Meeting, Nashville

#### What's Marty Reading?

 Barbershopping, Musical and Social Harmony, edited by Max Kaplan



### What's Marty Listening to?

 Musical Island Four







## Instant Classic pulls off upset in Pittsburgh

Westminster Chorus earns third gold; Trocadero becomes fourth Swedish collegiate champ

n a thrilling upset, dark horse **Instant Clas**sic jumped from eighth place in 2014 to gold medals in the international quartet contest. It was the largest leap since 1998, when **Revival** moved up from ninth to first. The quartet faced stiff competition from returning veterans; quartets finishing second through fourth had previously been in the top five. This year's medalists were:

- 1. Instant Classic (CAR), 92.7%
- 2. Forefront (CAR), 92.6%
- 3. Main Street (SUN), 92.4%
- 4. Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS), 91.3%
- 5. Throwback (SUN), 89.7%

The Kitzmiller brothers anchor the bottom half of the new champ: Kyle sings bass and Kohl baritone, with two music educators on the top parts: Theo Hicks at lead and David Zimmerman at tenor. (Trivia bonus: name the other 12 champion quartets that won gold with brothers singing together.) The foursome is the first non-champion collegiate competitor to win the open contest.



History reprised itself when the Westminster Chorus topped the Ambassadors of Harmony to capture gold. Singing "A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes" from Disney's Cinderella and "Seize The Day" from Newsies, the 74-man chorus won its third gold medal.

The last time Westminster faced the Ambassadors





head-to-head, in 2007, the contest ended in a tie, with Westminster edging past on a tiebreaker. This time, the gap was more noticeable: Westminster earned a 97.5% score, compared with 95.6% for the Ambassadors—a score that would have typically won other contests.

New to the medalist ranks were Kansas City's Central Standard in third and Nashville's Music City Chorus in fifth, with perennial medalists Alexandria Harmonizers in fourth.

Nearly 2,000 singers crossed the stage among the three contests, with more than 5,900 singers and guests purchasing tickets and registrations.

#### Trocadero wins college championship

Four of the top five collegiate quartets were based outside the United States, with Swedish quartet **Trocadero** topping the strongest-ever collegiate field. Of the 24 competitors, 14 posted at least a 76% scoring average—the cut-off for the open contest. Later in the week, Trocadero finished 17th in the open contest.

Trocadero continues a tradition of Swedish domination in the college contest, as the fourth Swedish quartet to capture the crown in the past eight years. The quartet consists of David Holst (T), Jakob Berggren (L), Sam Andren (Br) and Filip Sibien (Bs). The collegiate medalists were:



- 1. Trocadero (SNOBS), 82.9%
- 2. 'Shoptimus Prime (ONT), 82.2%
- 3. Yonge Guns (ONT), 80.1%
- 4. Blindside (BHA), 79%
- 5. Flightline (FWD), 78.7%

#### Why such high quartet scores?

Scoring records were set for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th place in the open guartet contest. Contest & Judging Chairman Kevin Keller explained that this was partly due to a recent calibration of quartet A-level scores (81%-100% average). For some time, it had been rare for top quartets to score above a 90% average on a superior performance, so scores for these "mid to high A-level" performances were recalibrated to allow a slightly higher scoring ceiling. B-level scores (61%-80%) and chorus scores were unaffected by the recalibration.

## PROBE honors best bulletins

PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) recently honored four top chapter bulletin editors in the 2015 International Bulletin Contest:

- The Orange Spiel (John Alexander) Jacksonville, Fla.
- The Tampa Herald (Roxanne Clapp) Tampa, Fla.
- Concho Capers\* (Paul White) San Angelo, Texas
- Toosday Toons (Bob Heim) Nassau Mid-Island, N.Y.
- \*Dick Girvin Most Improved Bulletin Award

PROBE serves as a support system to mentor, tutor, and provide contests for our hard-working communicators, whether they edit bulletins (printed or electronic), edit a website, and/or promote the heck out of this wonderful obsession we call barbershopping. The winners will be their chapters as these editors will take what they have learned to improve their bulletins for their members. To learn more about PROBE (or join for \$10 yearly) visit *http://probeweb.org.* ■

### **CONVENTIONS**

2016 Nashville July 3-10 2017

July 2-9 2018 Orlando July 1-8

Minneapolis

2019 Salt Lake City June 30-July 7 2020

#### Los Angeles **LEADERSHIP FORUM**

Nashville, Tenn. Nov. 13-15, 2015 July 22-24, 2016

#### MIDWINTER

Reno Jan. 26-31, 2016 San Antonio Jan., 2017

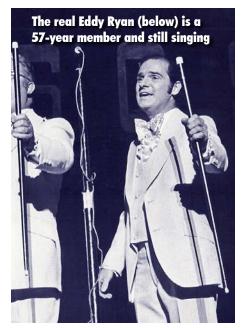
#### HARMONY UNIVERSITY

Nashville, Tenn. July 26-Aug. 2, 2015 July 24-31, 2016

harmonizer@barbershop.org

To the editor: I'm sure it was an oversight; however, the photo depicting the tenor of the Easternaires was not of Eddy Ryan, but that of Tommy Dames, a good friend of mine (as is Eddy). Tommy was the original tenor of the Easternaires, having passed away just this year. The selection of Eddy Ryan was more than justified, as his pure Irish tenor voice commanded the attention of all who heard him.

> BART PLESCIA Naples, Fla.





#### July/August 2015 Volume LXXV Number 4

Complete contact info: pages 26-27

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## Apply a scientific approach to voice training

filter

soft palate

tongue

ocal pedagogy is the art and science of voice teaching and attempts to explain singing in the most practical terms. Pedagogy also helps identify specific locations within the body that determine how sound is created and projected. One approach to pedagogy follows the source-filter model of vocal production, which I've found useful for diagnosing issues and coaching improvement out of singers.

The *source* of vocal sound occurs when the two vocal folds (previously known as vocal cords) come together as air passes through, vibrating them. source If you placed a microphone next to the vocal folds as they vibrate, you would hear a sound very similar to a duck call. It isn't very pretty. Why do we not hear that, then? This is where the *filter* kicks in. The filter for the human voice is called the vocal tract, and looks like a tube running from the vocal folds to the mouth. It includes structures like the tongue, soft and hard palates, and the teeth and lips. The manipulation of the filter amplifies or dampens the sound emitted from the source.

Source-filter

**Source.** When a singer asks how to sing with better breath or freer tone, I first check on the source. Generally speaking, there are three ways in which the vocal folds close:

- *Incomplete vocal fold closure* creates air leakage through gaps in between the folds. What we hear on the outside is brea anemic tone.
- Too much vocal fold closure means that the vocal folds are colliding quite strongly and are often assisted by surrounding muscles of the larynx. What we hear on the outside is a pressed or effortful sound.
- Just-right vocal fold closure is when the folds close completely with no leakage and no pressing. We hear a clean, healthy, and vibrant sound. It is the most acoustically efficient (energetic overtones!) and has the least impact on larynx tissues.

Want better breath support? Eliminate incomplete vocal fold closure. Want to sing higher notes with ease? Eliminate pressing.

Filter. In barbershop, overtones are what keep us up until the wee hours tagging! You actually create an entire overtone series by yourself, and the combination of energetic and dampened overtones constitute

timbre. The reason you don't sound like a trumpet or a saxophone (which also create overtones) is this variation in overtone loudness. This is a filter phe-

> Why do some singers sometimes sound tinny? What creates a "woofy" sound? Bright? Dark? Nasal? There are many terms for this psychoacoustic phenomena (our brain's interpretation) that occur when singing. The length and the shape of the vocal tract are the biggest contributors to the filter and have a huge impact on each singer's overtones. Vocal tract length is determined by the height of the larynx (Adam's apple) and

to what degree the lips protrude. A low larvnx creates a longer tube and the sound becomes richer and warmer. Too low and sound can be muffled. A very high larvnx can make one sound as though he or she lacks vocal maturity or has a tinny or thin sound. For acoustic efficiency in barbershop singing, your larynx should remain at a height similar to that found in

speech, if not slightly lower.



Vocal tract shape is impacted by a number of factors; three are discussed here: head/neck alignment, tongue position, soft palate position.

**Head/neck alignment.** Two head/neck positions need to be addressed: the vertical (up and down) position and the horizontal (back-to-front) position.

Vertical—if you raise your chin, your spine can press in on the back wall of the vocal tract. It also raises the larynx and

shortens the vocal tract. Tucking the chin can compress the larynx. The most efficient vertical head/ neck alignment keeps the larynx stable and releases the tension on the neck. The bump on the back of the head near the base of the skull (called the *inion*) should be quite high, but not enough to compress the larvnx.

 Horizontal—for every inch your head moves forward, the neck muscles gain the equivalent of 10 additional pounds to support. This forces several neck muscles to be constantly flexed, adding tension to the laryngeal area and sometimes pinching off the vocal tract. A quick fix here is to align your ear canals with the middle of your shoulder.

Tongue position. The tongue is enormous (see the



**Steve Scott** Harmony U Faculty, Ph.D. candidate and vocal pedagogy researcher. University of Kansas picardy4th@ gmail.com

second illustration for an approximation) and has four internal muscles and four muscles that attach to it. It takes up a significant portion of the vocal tract and can really impact sound. Consider two instructions involving the tongue:

- Yawning a tone: when you yawn, the larynx naturally descends. And while it is acoustically desirable to have a lower larynx, many singers accomplish this by pressing the root of the tongue down and leaving it pressed, as in a yawn. Doing so will introduce fatigue very quickly. Try the yawn, but also stick your tongue out and maintain that larynx position without the tongue press.
- Sing with a flat tongue: this can be troublesome (1) because it can commingle a pure vowel with neutral vowels and (2) introduce root-oftongue tension, which is also fatiguing. Try this: press your two index fingers to the muscles right under the chin and swallow. You should feel something that seems like cords pushing against your fingers. Now talk. You should experience minimal movement of these muscles. Your

goal should be to utilize these swallowing muscles infrequently while

**Soft palate.** This body part is oft discussed, but sometimes its role is misunderstood. Functionally, the soft palate closes off the passage to the nasal cavity for jobs such as swallowing and airway constriction. When the soft palate is down, expired air escapes out both the mouth and the nose. Tones sung in this manner will have a nasal quality because, unlike the two simplified illustrations, the nasal cavity is not an open space, but is filled with bone and cartilage. Nasal singing has dampened (less energetic) overtones. Singing with a closed soft palate, except on the nasal consonants Ms, Ns, and NGs, will result in a clearer sound.

A word of caution. Some directors. teachers, coaches, etc., in their zeal to encourage the fullest sound possible in a singer, will ask for an exceptionally lifted soft palate. This can result in tension. Try it: using your thumb, press into the middle of your neck muscles about one thumb's length from your chin and lift your soft palate really high. You will feel your tongue muscles bulge

out. That's right: your tongue. Remember that the tongue has four external attachments? The soft palate is one of them. The role of the soft palate is to close the gate to the nasal cavity. More effort beyond this simple function can often result in tension. What I think these well-intentioned instructors are instead hoping for is a lowered larynx. Master that.

#### **Practice for consistency & efficiency**

Most singers I coach struggle at being efficient to one degree or another with an aspect of the source or filter. Singing does not occur in a vacuum, and barbershop singing is challenging because we often sing at the extremes of our ranges. Maintaining efforts to keep the source consistent—without press or breathiness—can be tough. Further, we often compensate in many ways with our filter (alignment or tongue, etc.) to get to all of these notes.

The most acoustically efficient voices—those with highest degrees of vocal freedom and ring—practice these principles of source and filter efficiency. May you have success in your goals to be likewise efficient.



Photo Credit: leff Richards

"Central Standard needed a better method for storing data, communicating chorus info, tracking rehearsal attendance and tracking song learning status. These are the core functions that Groupanizer provides in spades. Upon looking at the functionality provided by the Groupanizer system it was a no-brainer for us to start using it.

Overall the majority of our members log into the site on a weekly basis. That to me speaks directly to Groupanizer's inherent intuitiveness and breadth of functionality.

The Groupanizer forum is a boon of knowledge for any admin who runs into an issue while configuring their site."

Philip Owen Site Administrator

Central Standard





## Valentines Day love for the women who needed it most

Here's a contender for the most appreciative recipients of a Singing Valentine in 2015. There are no pictures for reasons that should be obvious, but this past Feb. 14, Barbershoppers made the day for female inmates, addiction recovery patients and their family members in Newark, N.Y., North Canton, Ohio, and Daytona Beach, Fla. Past Society CEO Darryl Flinn's quartet gave a 20-minute performance of light and fun songs for about 30 female inmates in Canton, and it worked out even better than hoped.

"In the middle of a set, we explained the nature of this Valentine gift and sang 'My Cup Runneth Over With Love.' There were tears as expected but not sad tears," Flinn said. "The women laughed with us and showed extraordinary gratitude for this event. The superintendent and his staff were delighted and responded with messages and phone calls in the days after." Participants hope the practice will catch on among Barbershoppers throughout the Society.

# **Story Tellers**

## Send to storytellers@barbershop.ora

Want to be a storyteller? Contact storytellers@barbershop.org or harmonizer@barbershop.org

215 YEARS OF IL-**LINOIS DISTRICT** EXPERIENCE. Four of the best known, most "heavy lifting" Illinois District **Barbershoppers** all happened to show up to the 64th Annual



Sterling-Rock Falls show on April 25. Though they didn't actually sing on the show, they could have. They have 215 years (average 53 years) of barbershop experience, all of it in Illinois. Among them are dozens of years directing, judging, district championships and more. Left to right: Tom Woodall (52 years), Ken Hines (64 years), Jim Stahly (57 years), Wayne Wright (42 years). Each exemplifies the long-term commitment and selfless service upon which every chapter and district is built.

- Kevin McClelland, ILL District VP of Marketing

## Portland chapter hosts first Youth Barbershop Jamboree

On April 25, 65 young men representing nine high schools in the Greater Portland, Oregon, area gathered for the third annual Youth Barbershop Jamboree. Directed by the energetic and multi-talented Paul Olguin and assisted by fellow members of the quartet Coda and the very gifted and award-winning quartet Momma's Boys, the attendees enjoyed learning two spirited songs and a few tags.

The Youth Barbershop Jamboree is the main focus of the Youth in Harmony outreach of nearly every member of Portland Metro

Chapter, headed up by Youth Outreach Coordinator Doug Watson.

In addition to learning Tom Gentry's lively "Sound Celebration" and Adam Scott's arrangement of "Happy," they learned tags and even some





choreography. Almost all of the boys accepted the invitation to perform in a mass chorus on the chapter's spring

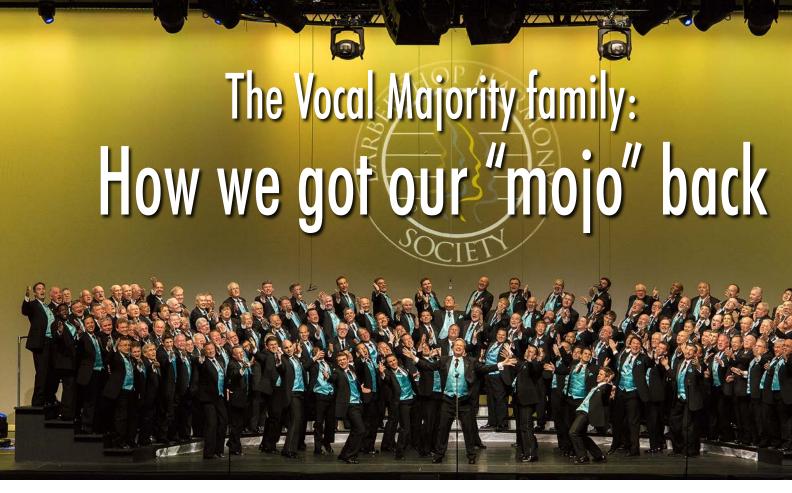
> - Doug Watson, Coordinator Youth Barbershop Jamboree



Perpetual international chorus competitors the Pathfinder Chorus (Fremont, Neb. Chapter) were the subject of a rotating televised segment by Nebraska Educational television's Nebraska Story segments. The chorus is declared one of the best barbershop choruses in the world, and if you've seen them in contests, you know that's no exaggeration! See the chapter's segment at bit.ly/pathfinderstv.







## Two consecutive silvers ended the decades-old perception of an invincible Vocal Majority. How taking a huge step back—and a 4-year contest hiatus—helped them return even stronger

When the VM landed in Vegas last year, it had been eight years since the chorus had experienced an international championship. Even then, our 17-point win in 2006 was debated by many because of the amazing performance by the then up-and-coming Westminster Chorus. When the VM headed back to competition in 2009, we were toppled for the first time in more than 30 years by the now iconic "Seventy-Six Trombones" performance from our friends, the Ambassadors of Harmony. As we headed to Philly in 2010, we were fired-up to be led for the last time (in international competition) by our father-like leader, Jim Clancy. We poured our hearts out for Jim that day, as we sang "If I Ruled the World." Despite posting our highest scores ever, the fantastic Westminster Chorus won its second championship.

Like any family, it is when challenges arise that one sees the true spirit and character come forth. The VM's confidence had been shaken. We were not sure what was on the horizon for us. One of the benefits of winning consistently over the decades was that the natural contest cycle gave us a year "off" every three years, which gave us a break and allowed for time to let our creative juices recharge. By the

fall of 2010, we had won the Southwestern District contest and were seeded number one going into the 2011 International competition. But the emotional toll was weighing heavily on everyone. We needed to take steps to ensure we would be strong and this wasn't to be the beginning of a downward spiral that could threaten our future.

This wasn't simply about the color of our most recent medals. The Vocal Majority is more than a chorus. It is a family bonded together by relationships and a passion for musical excellence. Ultimately, winning the 2014 International Championship in Las Vegas wasn't just another win for the VM. It was a lasting moment of gratitude reminding each of us of the love and friendships that make up our amazing VM Family.

Back to 2010, after our second silver medal. Like a family, the VM musical and administrative leadership talked in depth. With truly mixed emotions, we made the tough decision to lay out of the 2011 competition for the long-term benefit of the VM. The decision to not return immediately to competition gave the VM the opportunity to regroup, refocus and redefine.

During this time, the VM named Jim Clancy as



**Phil McShan** The Vocal Majority pmcshan@ gmail.com



Executive Musical Director, Jeff Oxley as Musical Director, and Greg Clancy as Creative Director. The chorus continued to perform our many selfproduced shows, including our busy Christmas season, and we

traveled several times to perform for new audiences. In many ways, it was business as usual. Still, many wondered if the VM could get back on top at a competitive level as well.

#### **Looking toward 2014**

As we started thinking about contest in 2012, the VM decided to set our competition mind-set towards Las Vegas in 2014. This time, we wanted our approach to be different. We decided that we would challenge the men to be at their best, not just musically, but in our roles as husbands, partners, fathers and sons. We wanted to win, but

more importantly, we wanted to encourage every man to be his best self. We got to work and started early.

Family is the center of our lives, and for any family to be strong, clear and fair expectations must be established for every family member. We created a three-round process that led to International. The goal of the contest preparation process was four-fold:

- 1. Give each man a realistic evaluation of his performing skills and abilities.
- 2. Inspire each man to improve his performing skills and abilities.
- 3. See measured improvement by every performer in the Vocal Majority.
- 4. Ensure that we would have the best, well-qualified

Our confidence was shaken. We needed to take steps to ensure this wasn't the beginning of a downward spiral.

chorus on the risers at International in 2014 and beyond.

The men stepped up like never before, and by the time we got to Vegas, every man knew that his brothers on the risers had sacrificed and put in

the work to be a champion.

#### **Unforeseen challenges in 2013**

As we headed into the 2013 District Fall Contest, the VM faced an unforeseen circumstance. Less than a month before we hit the district stage, the chorus made a change at musical director. This was an extremely difficult time for the VM family, because Jeff Oxley is, and will always be, a VM Brother. The chorus bonded together, and Jim and Greg co-directed the 125 men on the contest stage in the fall. It was a highly emotional day as we received an incredible response from our Southwestern District family. We were fortunate to also spend significant time with the judges from all three categories, which affirmed "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" was the right contest vehicle for the VM to take to Vegas.

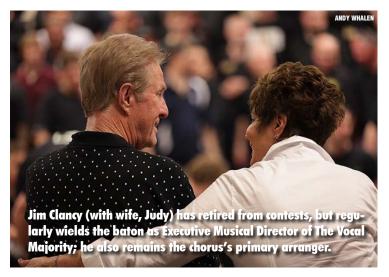
As we headed toward Christmas 2013, excitement was building as Greg Clancy was officially named musical director. We were thrilled to perform for our loyal Christmas audiences, who are like family to us, in four holiday performances. But an unforeseen circumstance hit—the biggest ice storm in recent history hit the Dallas Metro area the same weekend as our Christmas shows. Three of the four performances would have to be cancelled.

As usual, our leaders came together and created a plan. For the first time in VM history, we had our Christmas shows after Christmas. It was incredible! Our audiences returned! When the curtains opened,

In 2009, the Ambassadors of Harmony ensured the first VM silver in 30 years with "76 Trombones," arguably the most talked-about set in chorus history. The VM returned even stronger in 2010 in what was intended to be Jim Clancy's triumphant contest swan song. Despite earning what were then the highest scores in VM history, Westminster Chorus won with the highest-scoring set in contest history.







we were pleasantly surprised that nearly everyone came with very few ticket cancellations. Even after Christmas, the shows were fantastic and the chorus performed beautifully. It was a classic example of VM perseverance.

#### Fast-forward to Las Vegas

At our first rehearsal on Wednesday night in Las Vegas, we could tell this was going to be a special

#### VM performance team

Jim Clancy, Executive Musical Director. For over 40 years, Jim has led the VM to musical excellence. He is the primary arranger for the chorus and has earned 11 gold medals as director of the VM.

**Greg Clancy,** Musical Director. Greg has more gold medals in international competition than any other member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Greg joined the VM when he was 12 years old.

**Wes Dean,** audition chairman, is only the fourth man in VM history to hold this role. Over half of the current chorus members have come through the process with Wes.

Gary Parker, bass of 1973 champ Dealer's Choice. served as bass section leader and created the VM mantra. "Hard work is fun when improvement is evident."

Joe Krones, bass of 2011 champ Old School, is known as "Beast" and helped lead the bass section.

Steve DeCrow is tenor section leader and a featured VM soloist. Steve leads an amazing music program at Lewisville High School.

**David Webb** is baritone section leader and featured VM soloist. David and his dad, Don, are only one of 14 father-son combinations that sang with the VM in Vegas.

**Anthony Bartholomew** is a Music judge and talented quartet singer who evaluated many rehearsal recordings in preparation for Vegas.

**Chad Ehmke** is a long-time Music VP and show producer extraordinaire. Chad leads the VM front row and conducted many of the visual evaluations.

**Phil McShan,** or "Grasshopper," leads the visual team, including many 6 p.m. pre-rehearsals in preparation for Las Vegas.

week. The rehearsal room was packed, our families were there to support us, and the chorus was ready to work. The fun was just starting.

The two days of pre-contest rehearsals were filled with gold medal moments. We had a special visit from the 2013 champion Toronto Northern

Lights (complete with security detail), as they presented us with a special gift for good luck. David Wright and Jim Henry also stopped by and boosted our confidence with their inspirational words. One of the highlights of the week was getting to hear from Jeff Oxley as he wished us his best; we let him know how grateful we were for all his efforts through the years.

Our rehearsals were intense but fun. We were still improving! Greg did a masterful job of working with coaches Tony DeRosa and Erin Howden to fine-tune the plan. Just having Jim Clancy in the room gave us all confidence, but having him add his magical musical motivation was golden.

The VM is not just a brotherhood. It is first a family. Singing "Johnny" was especially meaningful for two of our members who had sons serving in the Armed Forces, who joined us in Vegas. Many VM Emeritus Members were also there to cheer us on. Our VMW (Vocal Majority Women), led by Judy Clancy, presented their own fully- costumed and choreographed two-song set for us on Friday morning that was simply amazing. Then they gifted each man with his own personalized dog tag to wear on stage for good luck!

As we moved into the final contest pipeline, everything came together perfectly. We were challenged with brilliant vocal work from Tony. Erin shared her final inspirational thoughts and a blessing with us.

Then we heard from the man, Jim Clancy. We all knew his impactful message was coming, but you can never be fully prepared for such special moments. Jim's words built our confidence and inspired us. He is simply the loving father of the VM. It felt strange to see him walk from the room as he left to watch us from the audience, but also exciting knowing

After posting the highest-ever VM contest score in 2014, one might think the chorus coasted into Vegas. But every minute of intense preparation appears to have been necessary to get past 8-time champ Masters of Harmony, which in Vegas posted its highest score since 1996.



For the first time in VM history, we had our Christmas shows after Christmas. It was a classic example of VM perseverance.

that he and Judy would be in the audience to cheer us on.

#### On stage and the wait

Every organization rises and falls on leadership. The VM is no exception. Greg Clancy is a remarkable musician, teacher, motivator and leader of men. He was flawless in his preparation. And on the stage

during the contest, the culmination of all our hard work and preparation was in his

hands. When we began the first line of the ballad, his presence filled us with confidence.

Time flies when you are on that stage—I am so grateful that there are videos and recordings to help

1982's Navajo Legacy: The year Jim Clancy missed a cue, and a recently deceased VM member ensured the judges unanimously counted "wrong"

It was dark, the morning skies opened and the rain began to fall. That was the beginning of an exciting and unusual day at the 1982 international convention in Pittsburgh for the Vocal Majority. But the story doesn't start on that day. Just months before the competition, one of the early members and leaders of the VM, Jim Denton, had suddenly passed away. Jim's son, Chuck, then just a young boy, was also in the chorus and was obviously shaken by the loss of his father. This created a loss and vacuum for the entire organization and demanded a re-focus toward the ultimate contest goal—the gold medal. Dedicating this quest to his memory was an immediate reaction; the work ethic of the group, which was always the core of VM success, seemed to redouble.

On that Saturday, the chorus met for its early-morning warm-up. Jim Clancy and his music team once again calmly walked through the plan and the day began with a prayer and a commentary on Mr. Denton. With families and friends watching during the warm-up, Earl Hagn, who would win a gold medal the next year with the **Side** Street Ramblers, in an attempt to take pressure off the guys, told us that we should not expect ourselves to be absolutely perfect. He recalled that the Navaio Indians, in their belief that only God should be perfect, always deliberately left some flaw in anything they made. That message turned out to be very prophetic as the day went on.

Then it was off to the convention center. We were all met with a gloomy, hard rain as we approached and loaded onto the busses. The weather of the day was a downer as the rain began to pour on us as we travelled to the arena. Each was concerned that the costumes, the stage makeup, etc. would be soaked entering the facility.

As we approached the entrance, suddenly the rain not only stopped, but the sun poked through the clouds giving us all the eerie feeling that our lost comrade was looking out for us that morning. We gleefully departed the busses under a ray of sunshine, now with a renewed vigor and excitement as to what the day might bring.

The chorus was ready, having spent hundreds (actually thousands) of hours preparing for the short 4-6 minutes on stage. Jim Clancy started the warm-up at a slow pace, reminding each and every one of the accomplishments to that point. He urged us to just relax, perform as we had trained and rehearsed to do, and everything would turn out okay.

Following his inspirational talk, we continued warmup and then dressed in our tuxes in anticipation of our time on stage. All were at the ready; the two songs—a ballad titled "Broadway" and the up-tune titled "Red Head"—were linked through signs and signals to present a classic VM production. The ballad was to be sung and, after Jim turned to acknowledge the audience, with his back to the chorus, he was to give just the slightest and almost imperceptible nod to trigger our next move. This was the signal for a full chorus move in VM style—opening our coats, stepping back in cocky, "yes, we are the VM!" poses. But then, inexplicably, the signal never came!

Jim, acknowledging the overwhelming crowd response, then turned to the chorus. The video shows Tom Halverson, a front row stalwart, with his eyes getting bigger and bigger, wondering what the men behind him were doing and when were they going to do ... something! He was not alone, as all 132 men stared at Jim waiting, wondering how, when and what to do. We had rehearsed this a thousand times but never did we think that the "signal" would not come. I was on the back row, scared for myself and the group as we joined in the uncharted territory about to be entered.

And then, Jim, apparently still not realizing what

had not happened, gave a slight signal for the pitch pipe and in that moment, the entire chorus flawlessly and in perfect sync performed the much-anticipated and rehearsed move. Apparently relieved and happy at what had just occurred, we sang and performed like never before. The uptune was exciting and by the end, the chorus knew we had given our best performance yet. Was Jim Denton still watching over us?

As we excited the stage, we clamored around Jim to ask why he missed the signal. To our amazement, he then just realized what had happened. In a recent conversation, Jim recalled, "I didn't realize what had happened until the guys told me after the curtain closed. The real upside was that what happened started a rush of adrenalin that gave a never-before energy to 'Red Head.' It was faster and more exciting than we had ever sung it. Yeah, I will always believe Jim was there with us." And the Navajo prophecy became reality!

But that's not the end of the story. Yes, the VM won the competition and survived what could have been a disastrous mistake. Later, we reviewed the score sheets. The panel used at that time included three secretaries whose responsibility included counting the number of men on stage. All three concluded that the head count was 133, not 132! And thus we were given 133 medals for our efforts. At that point, we realized that Jim Denton was truly with us that day: from opening the skies to let the sunshine, to the unified movement following the non-rehearsed move, and then to guide the secretaries to count him in the head count for the chorus.

At an emotional celebration back in Dallas, we presented Jim's medal to his widow, Evelyn, a moment she says she will treasure forever.

> - Frank Mahnich (Past President) and Jim Clancy (Executive Musical Director)



us remember! We all walked off the stage feeling confident. Greg greeted every man as we came off the stage. Our confidence was high, but now it was time to wait.

As Toronto finished up its amazing Swan Song set, the men of the VM were gathered together in the same section of the auditorium. Time for the countdown. As I write this, my palms still get sweaty! Even when our brothers the Masters of Harmony were announced as second, I couldn't allow myself to celebrate. (Thanks, Kentucky Vocal **Union!**) Then it happened: Kevin Keller announced the 2014 International Chorus Champions, The Vocal Majority!

We celebrated as a family! The rest of the evening was remarkable. Seeing 78 men receive their first gold medal was moving. Celebrating with six men who were there when the VM won our first gold medal in 1975 was a reminder of our storied history. Then, our brothers from the Masters of Harmony, led by Justin Miller,

surprised us as they walked in proudly wearing their silver medals, offering us their sincere congratulations. True class. We are so proud to call them our brothers.

Seeing Tony add a chorus gold medal to his impressive resume was fitting. Having Erin and her husband, Mark, a part of the celebration added to a perfect night.

But the ultimate for the VM family was getting to experience lim Clancy celebrating with his son, Greg. After years of waiting for this moment, all was right in the VM world.

Like any special

### Our Extended Family

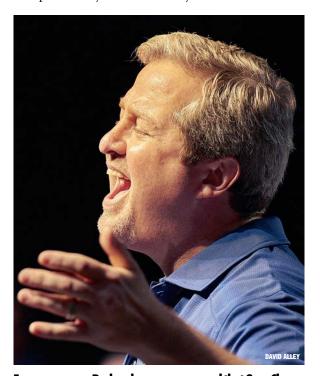
The VM has an incredible group of coaches. They are considered extended family to us. We love these amazing people and are proud to include them in our VM Family.

Dr. David Wright has been arranging for the VM since the 1980s. Jim Clancy and David share a rare kinship as musicians and friends. David is unique to this world and is a creative genius. But more than that, he is an amazing guy and a fantastic coach. We were so blessed to have David and Dr. Jim Henry visit us in May. Jim is such a special guy—talented musician, motivator and leader, yet such a humble man who reminds us to enjoy the journey and the gold-medal moments along the way.

**Tony De Rosa** has coached the VM for several years. Tony's style suits us perfectly. He is brilliant and has a way of making us laugh, pushing us to our best and reminding us that there is always room for more. This time around was especially meaningful for the VM family because we asked Tony to sing with us on the risers in Vegas. What a thrill for the men of the VM to have him up there with us!

Erin Howden is another special member of the VM family. One of her greatest attributes is her ability to connect the musical elements of the song with the visual aspects of the performance. She is remarkably creative and challenged us to demonstrate our authentic passion to the audience. Erin is a genuine, inspirational woman and has become an invaluable part of the VM family.

> time with the family, we didn't want the night to end. However the celebration concluded with one final family celebration. We asked all our family members and significant others to join us on the risers as Jim led us in "Through The Years." It was a perfect ending to a perfect day with the family.



For years, many Barbershoppers presumed that Greg Clancy, a top-shelf coach and director in his own right, would one day simply inherit his father's musical director role. But when the role came open 2010, Greg removed his name from consideration to focus on more pressing life priorities. When offered the position three years later, Greg proved to be ready, willing and (demonstrably) more than able.

#### Our marketing team

Lead by Gary Hennerberg, the team did an incredible job capturing some of our memorable experiences as they created short videos entitled *The Road to Vegas*. These videos were intended to create excitement outside the VM about our return to International, but the internal impact was huge, as the members' confidence and excitement grew each time a new video was produced. The final pre-Vegas video was entitled Why We Sing, where nearly every one of us who competed in Vegas had the opportunity to speak for a few seconds. This video captured the essence of the VM's mission and helped remind each man of the brotherhood of competition. http://bit.lv/vmveaas1

**40 Days To VM Greatness.** During the countdown to Vegas a VM blog was created with a daily reminder to think about the VM everyday in preparation for the contest. The site also included the most recent rehearsal recordings and videos for daily practice.

On That Day. Our video feature, On That Day, gives you a glimpse into the massive preparation for Barbershop Harmony Society competition. Narrated by our Musical Director, Greg Clancy, the video takes you into the never-before-shown, private domain of the intense, day-long, pre-performance pipeline. Share the anticipation, as The Vocal Majority files onto the stage and gives its all for the ultimate Barbershop chorus goal. Watch On That Day at http:// vocalmajority.com/road-to-gold.

Since 1938, the Barbershop Harmony Society has been at the forefront of encouraging the joy of singing and fellowship, primarily in four-part barbershop harmony. For all its history, Society members have served their respective communities in song and in charitable activities. Now more than ever, Society members (with financial support from Harmony Foundation International) are particularly focused on working with all people and organizations that wish to improve their communities through the power of singing—with no strings attached. Join us as we cover a mere slice of Society happenings during 2014.



Budget dedicated to membership services increased by \$339,000—to nearly \$1,240,000. This was largely allocated to the roll-out of a new customer service call center. In 2014, this team averaged:

- 3,743 monthly customer service calls
- 1,899 monthly email conversations

Other membership activity in 2014:

- Four new chapters formed: Thunder Bay, Ont., Fayetteville, N.C., Black River Valley, N.Y., Rome, N.Y.
- Seven choruses applied to participate in the pilot Open Board program, which allows up to two non-Barbershopper community members to serve on the chapter board: Alexandria Harmonizers (Va.), High Country Chorus (Ariz.), Arlingtones (Ill.), Ambassadors of Harmony (Mo.), Upper Yoopers (Mich.) (pending PIO chorus), Research Triangle Park (N.C.), OK Chorale (Okla.). More choruses have applied in 2015.

## **EDUCATION**

Harmony University moved to Belmont University and saw a 45% increase in attendance. Total enrollment was 618, the highest total in many years. This included dozens of music educators (23 with no prior BHS affiliation). Most educators attended on scholarships provided by Harmony Foundation, Sing Canada Harmony, and by districts and local chapters.

In 2014, all 17 districts likewise hosted regional leadership and/or music education events, some of which hosted hundreds of attendees.





## **EVENTS**

Our conventions showcased the best competitors from around the world. Educational and non-competitive offerings helped boost overall attendance.

Midwinter Convention. Held in Long Beach, Calif., the 1,780 attendees included 29 Senior quartets and 565 young men in 19 choruses for the Youth Chorus Festival. Registrations and hotel rooms for Festival youth were provided at no cost thanks to support from Harmony Foundation.

**International Convention.** Held in Las Vegas, more than 7,000 competitors and enthusiasts showed up for a week of contests and shows. 30 hours of webcast programming were provided for free to 1,200 music educators and students who were encouraged to watch for free. The week featured over 7,100 total streams and a 25% growth in viewership.

## HARMONY MARKETPLACE

Spreading the joy of singing means making sure singers can find our charts through us and elsewhere. In 2014, the Society:

- Entered into a partnership with the world's largest sheet music distributor, Hal Leonard, to distribute 58 Society singles and 5 songbooks through its network of more than 30,000 North American music stores & 30,000 choral directors.
- Expanded female arrangements, expanded quartet kits, created new vendor relationships while testing new market strateaies.
- Published 29 new arrangements (3,097 now in catalog) and began selling 152 new "unpublished" arrangements.
- Created 34 new learning track CDs; 83% of top 200 and 55% of top 500 selling charts have learning tracks. HAL-LEONARD®
- Shipped 13,000+ sheet music orders.
- Cleared copyrights for 545 songs on behalf of Society quartets and choruses.



Harmony Marketplace distributes more than 7,000 musical arrangements.

The Society's Old Songs Library holds more than 125,000 pieces of music—one of the world's largest private collections.

LONG-LASTING IMPACT. Working to create greater local impact before and after international conventions, a new staff member dedicated to educational tours organized multiple Pittsburgh visits for 2013 Collegiate Champ Newfangled Four (below) and 2014 champ The Academy. They met with nine local chapters, with many local performing groups and arts organizations, and performed for community leaders and for multiple schools and civic events.



## **OUTREACH GRANTS**

Society outreach touched thousands, with underwriting by Harmony Foundation International. In 2014, the Society:

- Increased Outreach funding by 30%, with plans to double outreach grant funding in 2015.
- Funded 90+ scholarships to Harmony University.
- Distributed thousands of copies of free sheet music to schools and music educators.
- Provided clinicians for youth barbershop camps and festivals.
- Reviewed grant requests from 102 applicants for 2015 and funded 60 grants—a 30% increase over 2013. In the fall 2014 window, \$104,743 was granted to help chapters and districts reach 322 music educators and 7,306 students.
- Hosted dozens of quartets in the international College Barbershop Quartet Contest plus hosted 20 Youth Choruses representing 500+ young men and their directors at the annual Youth Chorus Festival.

## OUTREACH

Working with others to promote the power of singing. "Youth Outreach" has been broadened to "Outreach."

- Relationship with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) increased. Staff conducted workshops, reading sessions and exhibits at seven regional ACDA events, returning each time with dozens of contacts with interested music educators and students.
- Developed relationships with the even larger National Association for Music Education (NAfME) along a similar trajectory to ACDA relations.
- Strengthened staff collaboration with the National Museum of Afri-



AMERICAN

CHORAL

Choral Arts Link

can-American Music; members of the NMAAM have ongoing use of the Society HQ building for meetings and for video production as they prepare to become literal backyard neighbors and collaborators with the BHS.

 In a new staff position for Music Educator Outreach, a close relationship with Nashville's Choral Arts Link is developing a curriculum to "bridge the gap" between elementary and high school choral education for underserved children.



Year	HFI to BHS <sup>1</sup>	HFI to Donor's Choice	BHS operating expense (outreach)	Total outreach- oriented ex- penditures
2013	\$373,000	\$360,000	\$492,000	\$1,225,000
2014	\$483,000	\$481,000	\$440,000	\$1,404,000
2015 <sup>2</sup>	\$850,000	\$500,000	\$415,000	\$1,765,000

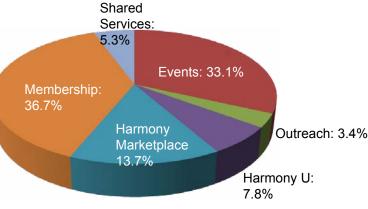
<sup>1</sup>Includes HU Scholarships and direct grant payments to chapters & districts <sup>2</sup>Estimated 2015 full-year results



## **VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN**

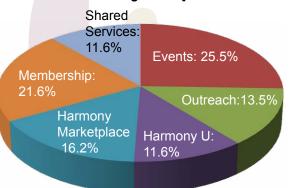
Virtually all Society activity is led or executed by volunteers. For tax purposes, Society staff counted the hours dedicated to a limited slice of professional activities provided by volunteers at major international events, multiplied by the average music educator's modest salary. (These activities were International convention judging & show production, Harmony University instruction, and Music Publications & Judging Committee activity.) This small slice represented more than 7,827 hours, or \$293,000 worth of volunteered services. It is estimated that the total worth of volunteer services (in-kind) provided by members exceeds \$1 million at the international level and within our 17 districts and nearly 800 chapters.

#### **2014 Program Revenues**



\$6,172,525 Total Revenue

#### **2014 Net Program Expenses**



\$5,748,653 Total Expense



FOR EVERY KNOWN STORY, MANY OTHERS GO UNTOLD. The scale of activity among nearly 800 chapters and thousands of quartets is unmeasurable—and indeed, only a fraction is known. For example, in 2014, Oregon comedy quartet Tone Deaf (left) embarked on a mostly self-funded trip to the Cook Islands, spreading the joy of harmony with most of the island nation's children. Outside of local Oregon schools, few knew that the quartet has provided similar shows for hundreds of local children every year.

Countless untold stories deserve wider exposure. The Storytellers project began in 2014 to proactively identify and collect such stories. Between June and December of 2014, more than 300 grassroots stories were identified or collected, most of which pertained to Society groups unselfishly giving within their respective communities.

## Swipes 'n' Swaps

"New director" ads are free in *The Harmonizer* (first 50 words) to Society chapters. Send to harmonizer@barbershop.org.

#### **DIRECTOR WANTED**

The **Norfolk Chapter**, the **Commodore Chorus** (commodorechorus.org) is searching for a new director. Interested candidates who are trained and/or experienced in choral directing can leave a message at 757-215-1602 or Jeff at irob51@verizon.net.

The Rogue Valley Harmonizers are

looking for a new director in this. their 25th year in the Roque Valley of Southern Oregon. We are very community outreach oriented and receive consistent financial support in return. We also have a new, unique method of song learning that is a great asset to the director. Please contact Vance Hickin at vanhic@charter.net.

## The Shortcut to Great Sound The Vocalator™

Take years off your vocal training Learn proper vocal technique Solve trouble spots in your songs

The Vocalator teaches singers to:

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- **Produce** correct vocal tone
- **Open** their throat and soft palate
- Breathe fully for a full, rich sound





## THE SECRET TO SIMPLE **CHORUS MANAGEMENT**

So easy even a 70-year-old barbershopper can do it!

## HarmonySite is...

- A complete, centralized **chorus management** tool
- A gorgeous website to promote your chorus
- A communications hub for your members

...all wrapped up into one integrated user-friendly package

Used by choruses around the world!

Gentlemen of Fortune • North Metro (SAI champs) Seattle SeaChordsmen • EVERY chorus in Australia!



From the creators of Barbershop Tags (1886)

**GROUPS** 

**Frustrated** with your current chorus management system?



## Welcome new members! Thank you, recruiters!

New members reported between Nov. 1, 2014 and June 1, 2015. Recruiters names follow in italics.

Alex Chuk

#### Cardinal

Sam Arnold Nick Heller Matthew Bayer Nick Heller Ben Brabson Peter Delevett Jeffrey Brier Jordan Busboom Phillip Couch Jerry Wigent Gene Davis Allen Distler Sam Firkins Andrew Wheaton Josh Hamilton Jeffrev Boyd Collin Hughes Nick Heller Dennis Judy Philip Randall Kevin Kellogg Theo Hicks Robert McBlain Brian McBlain David Mohler Doug Parker Steve Ramser

#### **Central States**

Andrew Ramser

Daniel Alcott Denny Craun, Sr. Doug Anderson Rill Lamme Spencer Anderson Darrell Denker Carter Anderson Spencer Anderson Brandon Baxter Matt Seivert Michael Beck Carter Combs Charles Blatchley George Graham Rvan Bradlev Bob Velazquez Conner Caughlin Matthew Webber Bruce Christensen Marty Christensen Michael Colon Robert Martin Trevor Dannegger Graeme Allen Bill Doss Orval Bishop Brian Eiffes Rex Traylor Nathan Graham Ben Shively Ben Gustafson Kenneth Pinkerton Roger Hanke Victor Aufdemberge G N Hardman Merlin Dresher Zach Hargrave Brian Hargrave

Hilgenhamp Zachary Kane Drew Hillertz Sean Smith Tom Holdeman Charles Ford Fred Hongsermeier Thomas Cook Michael Hurley Wayne Wentworth Zachary Kane Gerald Wirth Jerry Leopold Morris Heitschmidt Benjamin Listhartke Travis Trover Tallis Lockos Mike Leonard

Ryan Majka

Michael Petry

Jim Lindquist

Denver Marlow

Nicholas Matthews

Michael Matthews

Richard Matthis

Nick McConnell

Luke McKinney

Harold Nentrup

Adrian McLeod

Nicolas Mendoza

Zack Morgan

Aaron Powell

Gene Zeimet

Ron Flock

Dennis Moeller

Roland Money

Louis M Morgan

Aaron Powell

Dale Nordby

Oli Brilhante IV

Wayne Wentworth

Greg Persons

Isaac Reeves

Galen Reeves

Derek Richard

Charles Rohlfing

Todd Krier

Gene Torrens

Carl Rorstrom

Eric Rorstrom

James Rorstrom

James Rorstrom

Myke Rukavina

Scott Handelman

Corey Russman

Todd Krier

Isaah Stucky

Darrell Denker

James Thomas, Jr.

John Meriwether

Braden Troyer

Travis Troyer

Stephen True

Larry Shay

Ken Oster

Gerald Meier

Garrett Reese

**Dixie** Joseph Bays Tony Bowman Hunter Duncan Daniel Rushing Jason Haddox Robert Kaltenbach Raymond Knox Larry Pigue Joshua Pawlik Stan Peppenhorst George Pokorny Philip Plantamura Andrew Sexton Ron Visser Jason Thompson A.J. Puckett Jeremy West Jeremy Connor Taylor Wilson Charlie Davenport

Matthew Richardson

Calvin Holmstrom

Wayne Wentworth

Judd Wasmoen

James Mathison

Ron Willard

Gerald Meier

Michael Tate

Jayson Ryner

Ruxton Smith

Nathan Zwick

Tim Moulton

Solomon Worlds

Joseph Winship

Jack Walgren

Ralph Walker

#### **Evergreen**

Daniel Alteneder John Rettenmayer Cameron Bischoff Doug Gardner Thomas Bradshaw Del Motteler Ryan Broersma Douglas Broersma William Gregory Bryan Don Petersen Greg Duke Steve Combes Philip Faler Dan Stoelb JD Frelinger Bill Esworthy Gabriel Godak Kevin Mattson John Hostetler Michael Halvorson Richard Kniffin Dan Hopper Raymond Langcaster Paul Crowe Jon Lundstrom Michael Robertson Joee Martinez

Sean Murch Michael W McKee David Williams Brennan Meyer Kevin Mattson Timothy Olguin Harold Clark Don Om Reuben Neufeld Colin Parrott Don Ferguson Rick Phipps Paul Graves Tom Poulin Gord Giesbrecht Mitchell Radford Don Petersen David B Roberts Percy Crosthwaite Cloyd Robinson Robert Shobe John Rowicki Jay Krumbholz Alvaro Sanchez Brandon Hall Mike Scovill Parker Wilcock James Sleightholme Terry Kohan Rich Smith Richard Smith Ted Sponsel Eugene Redden Jason Stubblefield Victor Fitzpatrick Rick Sundstrom Guv Lane Eric Verrastro Douglas Gonzales Roy Villanueva Don Ferguson Venn Vranas Robert Martindale Steven Wargo Darrell Werries Garrett White Sean Murch David Williams

### Dan Blackburn Far Western

Bob Wilkie

Mateo Wong

Pasha Zavari

Winston Wong

Kevin Altenberg Jordan Johnson Peter Avila Dean Hunt Colson Barkley Lee Markham Alexander Bell Matt Pfaff Dorian Bonner Jackson Niebrugge Rob Briner Dave Briner Bob Butler George Cagwin

Richard Abbott

Andrew Maier

Richard Postal

Frank Martinez

Bruce McHenry

Bruce McLaughlin

Michael Irvin

Matt Pfaff

Christopher Tsui Scott Compton William Wingard John Cotton Harry Williams Tom Cristiani Michael Gaultois Mack Darby John Minsker Patrick DeLuca Christian Millard Matt Douglass Dave Douglass David Espinoza Mark Travis Keith Fernandez Justin Miller Rick Fillman Ron Seher Timothy Flowers Robert Carlton Ethan Frahm Ed Warner Justin Gabriel Thomas Nichols Gerry Gamet Sang Park Jennings Gardner Justin Miller Lucas George David Gaunt Shawn Goodrich Carl Buntin Fred Grace Greg Grace Corbin Gunstream Ron Whisenant Christian Hagan Ray Morris Nicholas Hamon David Oueen Andrew Hernandez Thomas Nichols Norm Hile Dan Swink Mitchell Hollis Justin Netka Bill Hurd Marshall Goldman Wendell Jenkins, Jr. J Aaron Burleson Stephen Kahn Michael Vaughan Robert Kensler Denis Van Dam Tarsus Lam Sang Park Robert Lingley Thomas Hutton Richard Little

Lee Shoptaugh Kevin Mirsepassi Richard Otto Fred Montemarano Mike Dunn Kevin Moore Russell Lee Mike Mullert Lawrence Good Sam Nicolas John Rhodes Camron Porter Sang Park Chris Pupillo Richard Grav Martin Redler Al Leuthe Gary Reeve Franklin Hartline Matthew Reger Donnie Miller Alan Ringer David Hawks James Robinson William Wingard Alejandro Romero Mark Travis Josh Salgado Thomas Nichols Rio Score Rio Score Alex Silver Irv Engel John Soper Richard Moore John Speirs Rvan Wisniewski Dan Stone Richard Ludwigson Taylor Strong David Gaunt Tristen Urban Thomas Nichols Dillon Vilaiphanh Timothy Gedney Dennis Welch Lynn Sedgley Peter Wilson John Brockman Kevane Wong Leon Sorhondo

Illinois Richard Biby Barrie Scott Lyle Brubaker Lyle Brubaker Tom Cunningham David Howe Scott Dykstra Nicholas Serrecchia Ralph Ferguson Robert Potthast Erik Jensen Joseph Gurreri Chuck Piper Frederick Gahl James Saylor

James Parks

Sean Strader

Dan Strader

William H Thomas

Richard Benson

Larry Thompson

John Blasdel Steve Scheider Dan Adler

## Johnny

**Appleseed** Carl Andersen Steven Arthur Danny McGraw Robert Boyd William Sutherland Edwin Braithwaite Rov Carr David Brooks Ron Brooks Jacob Capel Frank Koenig Trenton Carpenter Kenneth Crawford Jon Culp John Martin Taylor Dauterman David Calland Michael Eddy Charles Phillips Robert Eley **Bob Patterson** Paul Emery Paul Schaughency Ronald Erhart Ford Fuller III Craig Fourman Doug Whitehead Ralph Gels Dean Schaller Art Harrington William Barnes, Jr. Lewis E Jenkins Bryan Waters Joshua Joseph Carl Taylor Ric Keaster Ken Gainer Anthony Kohler Larry Davis Michael Linaberry Neil Kenagy Frederick Locker Gary Lewis Eric Macsay James Singer Danny McGraw Carl Taylor Steve Rankey Ted Stombaugh Rob Rodkey Jordan Huff John Slimak, IV Trevor Garrabrant Quavon Smallwood Bill Booze Ashton Snyder CC Snyder Tim Spengler

Gary Lewis Ian Trent Trevor Garrabrant

#### Land O' Lakes

Gary Gunstinson Nick Badilla Jay Fahl **Dustin Bennett** Justin Mitchell Walter Dawson Harvey Weiss Pete Gasper John Gusmer Steven Giebel Terrance Guay Ed Gunderson Thomas Casey Mark Hannemann Marc Tall Andrew Heike Daniel Heike Christopher Heike Daniel Heike Howard Hutchinson Thomas Lerdahl Wesley Jessop Victor Prediger Christian Keil Connie Keil Paul Knueppel Mark Hoffmann Jason Lasee Steve Bye Donald Lewellen, Jr. Anthony Schreiter Chris Magas Charlie Siegel Aaron Marks Steve Zorn Wade Nelson George Trudeau John Nowicki Jack Ryback Steven Reiman Ken Purdy Michael Thorelli Roger Christians Tyler Trotter Gary Pederson Gary Trull John Whitehouse Gregory Van Erem Gerald Herbst Mike Wavra Rick Lindquist Chris Wendt John Gethers Connor Wosmek Bob Dowma

#### **Mid-Atlantic**

Steve Adams Ronald Cappuccio Palmer Aguirre Eric Engelhardt Blake Albertson Bob Rhome

## Recollections of Freeman Groat—70 years on in Society membership

It all started when I heard guys singing in a barbershop in Fort Dodge, Iowa. When I was 14, I walked four miles to and from my home to junior high. On my way home, I passed by a barbershop in the business district where guys were always singing, so I would stop and listen. Herb Dick, the barber and one of the singers, saw me standing outside listening and invited me in. I sang bari on "I've Been Working on the Railroad." That night when I got home. I got a whipping for being late.

When Herb Dick came back from a meeting at the Kansas City Muehlebach Hotel all enthused, he became the driving force behind getting men together to sing barbershop music. They signed me up as a charter member of their chapter in 1944.

I started directing them when I was 15, and for several years until our first show in 1950. I was also in a quartet called the Gypsum City Four. I left about 1951 for college and directed the Storm Lake, lowa, Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Then I joined the Air Force, and at Parks Air Force Base (Calif.), I started a chorus (more glee club than barbershop), and our chorus went to Oakland, Calif., to do TV shows on a monthly basis.

After being trained as a bandsman indoctrination person, I was reclassified as a radar technician due to a reduction in the number of bands. I attended a radar school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., and helped form the Four Flushers **Quartet.** The other three were regular

Air Force, but since I was a student, I couldn't leave the base. They would sneak me off base in a car's trunk until we left Biloxi. Then we would go to Mobile, Alg., where I directed the barbershop chorus for about 18 months.

The Four Flushers was the best augrtet I ever sana with. We had a repertoire of about 130 songs. We often sang at Air Force events where the commander of Keesler Air Force Base would speak. I mentioned to him that we would be able to do more performances if I didn't have to do KP duty. From that day on, I was never assigned KP duty again.

After returning from being stationed in Germany and France, I did some directing of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa, Chapter. I directed the Duluth, Minn., Chapter and sana in a avartet called Dukes of Duluth.

I was discharged in 1962 and sang in a quartet in St. Petersburg College in Florida called the Trojanaires. I then returned to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to work in pur-

chasina for Coats Company. I sana with the Fort Dodge, Iowa, Chapter and

Freeman Groat highlights

4. Director of 7 choruses, with three inter-

Society's first life-time member (1967)

6. Director Emeritus, Music City Chorus

7. HQ volunteer since 2007 (Old Songs

9. Dixie District Hall of Fame (2009)

1. Joined Society in 1945

2. Directed first chapter at age 15

3. Member of at least 12 quartets

national contest appearances



directed a chorus in Alaona, Iowa.

I came to Nashville in 1972, when Coats Company moved to nearby

LaVerane. I started sinaing with the Music City Chorus, and started directina in 1975 when Bill Busby was in an automobile accident. I directed from 1975 to 1978, and during that time, the chorus qualified to go to International three times. After 1978. I transferred to the

Frank Thorne chapter because my workload at Coats was extremely heavy.

In 1981, I came back to Music City Chorus. About that time, I coached "Yesterday Today" quartet. I retired from Coats in 1987 and spent part of the year in my house in Florida, where I co-directed a chorus in Pasco County. In 1999. I sang bass with Clyde Perkins, Doug Wooten, and Van Perkins in a guartet called Nashville Edition.

Past Society MVPs. Lloyd Steinkamp was an outstanding salesman of barbershop singing. [Seven-time gold medal director] Jim Miller was my idol as director.

Harmony U memories still sweet. Sometime in the '60s. I took a train from Fort Dodae to Winong, Minn., to attend the first Harmony College (then called HEP School). We could go to the basketball court and get all the ice cream we wanted. They still do!

Society trends. The music has had big changes,

mainly in the last 10-15 years. I still love the music as long as it has sevenths, four parts, and you can ring the chords.

Best quartet memory. The Four Flushers went to an event at a Mississippi park to hear **The Confederates**, later to become the 1956 champ. When we got there, everyone

was standing in a sand-bottom lake in the park, singing. So we got in the water and sang past midnight. We didn't get started back to the base until about 2 a.m., and I was driving about 80 MPH in a 50 zone. A cop pulled us over and asked us where we were headed in such a hurry. We said we had to get back to the Kessler Air Force base by 6 a.m. or I'd be thrown in the bria. We told him we'd been singing all night. He asked us to prove it by singing to him. In the middle of nowhere we did, and then Sam asked him to sing with us. He sang lead on "I've Been Working on the Railroad," and I got out of a ticket!

Most valuable barbershop possession. Stacks of 33-1/3 rpm barbershop records.

**About volunteering.** I dearly love my job working with the Old Sonas Library each Thursday. It brings back memories of old songs I've known for years.

Pick-up avartetting. I sometimes put a avartet together with Marty Monson on tenor, me on bass, and we round up two other staff to sing some old songs. Just about every Thursday. I pick out some old music and aet together with three other staff to sing a song. Staff and volunteers include Marty Monson, Eddie Holt, Donny Rose, Wayne Grimmer, Adam Scott, James Pennington, Kyle Snook, and Mel Joesten.

It's been worth every minute. I really don't know how I would have existed without barbershop singing and all of the camaraderie for 70 years.

- as told to Mel Joesten, Music City Chorus (Nashville)

Connor Ambrose Thomas Hallev Jonathan Balcombe Nelson Robin Benjamin Banker Stephen Banker Joseph Borowic, IV Rich Taylor, II Travis Braue-Fischbach

Joe Servidio, Jr. Bob Carden Gordon Sisk Jordan Cary Gregory Berlin John Cary Jordan Cary Sean Clancy Steven Zellers Raymond Clark W Roberts Rich-

Elmer Clauhs Bob Rullo Grant Colip Linda Sherman Sean Conner Marvin Dunmeyer Brennon Conner Marvin Dunmeyer Jim Craun Jay Butterfield

Stephen Cristiano Paul Franek Joe Crockett Vinny Capaccio Robert Dean Tyler Horton Samuel Doolittle Timothy Prevatt Jordan Dubois James Isley Sam Ferrigno

Cy Wood Nathan Feyrer Michael Feyrer Steve Fink Vincent Lynch Ryan Fluck Warren Fluck David Franks Justin Davis Charles Fromm Stanley Marcuss **Edward Gaus** Walter Deneen Sam Gordon Mark Bentley Cole Graham Brandon Brooks Scott Haddock Stewart Darrow Stuart Hall Dennis Ober Steven Hengel

Lawrence Hiebert Scott Evans Douglas Hill Kelly Green Don Howell Richard Burke Michael Hubbell Dave Ruppert Kevin Juliana

James Isley

Chris Kautz Frank Niemann Allan Kazarus Brian Spear Joe Kiely Paul Franek Rich Lacorara Jeffrev Glemboski David Lamb David Lance Clay Langlotz

Chuck Frederick Gregory Lee Chantel Pomerville Matt Lehmer Charlie Carroll Gary Levine Richard Greif Jonathan McElhaney Rich Taylor, II Ryder Milia Justin Davis David Mindel Hugh Pepper Samuel Morrison Rich Taylor, II Noel Mover Chip Moyer Dennis Ober Michael Calhoun Daniel Odom Dave Bankard Jack Oliva Joseph Maher George Pagan Michael Patti Isiah Palovitz Rich Taylor, II Bruce Pieper Norm Barbee Niko Porter Adam Porter Dan Rediske Bill Colosimo Jeffrey Rhoads Gregory Berlin

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Raymond Yeh Raymond Yeh

Northeastern Louis Ades Benjamin Lewin Ronald Arsenault John Hildebrand Bill Bedford Walter Dowling Peter Beeson Donald Burns Mike Bloom Scott Feldman Graydon Braley Brian Rilev Alexander Braley Brian Riley Roger Buck Arnold Jordan Wayne Campbell Brian Riley Brain Caulfield Zachary Dunn

Nate Finke

Daniel Hoke

Greg Kiviat

Jim Coates

JJ Johnston

Earl Lohnes

Andrew Keir

Kevin Dibble

Ronald Kelly

Far Western

Christian Albers

Brandon Berryhill

Bob Coleman

Michel Conrad

Tim Crowley

Dennis Doty

Michael Fox

Murray Hiatt

Hugh Hilles

Lewis Hippler

Rudolf Jovero

Matt Kitagawa

Michael Krupp

Terrence Leung

Andrew Lu

Carl Melcher

John Shearin

Scott Suwabe

Marshall Vest

Jack Zigray

Jim Sipes

Richard Nagle

Benjamin Pollchik

Greg Koskowich

Jack Hale

Samuel Englese

William Fisher

Michael Gilman

Jerry Wistrom Keith Kollet Bill Wright Raymond Lambert Joseph Snider Jon Lawrence John Peach Glen Lovejoy Maurice Brazie David MacKenzie Earl Lohnes William MacNeil Earl Lohnes Steven MacNeil Tom Andrews Lucien Mathieu Thomas Weiss Bernard McCarthy Alexander Forgeron Richard McCaskill Shawn Bower Thomas Milner Walt Lane Harrison Palmer Shawn Bower John Pitcher Fred Grainger Byron Round Chuck Karnolt Allan Rowe Ron Fralick Daniel Schutzsmith Frank Ruggiero

James Siteman Rex Dunn Carleton Skinner James Kinder Jim Smith Murray Phillips Isaac Smith Walt Lane Andrew Somerville Shawn Bower Jack Spadafora Tony Di Ianni Rich Waag Walt Barlow John C Ward Jim Simpson Greg Weaver Alan Coffey Rich Wiebe Bill Wright Sasha Zbitnoff Stephen Horhota

Carolinas Phillip E Clark Michael Masters David Conradt Larry Booker Clay Cooper John Arnold Calvino Cupini Steve Curulla Jerry Dellinger Joe Loughlin

Kevin Boehm

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Tim Hutchins

### **Pioneer**

Stephen Blackman Karl Domeier George Breeden Ludwig Ouzoonian Matt Carelli Charles Martin Tim Carey

#### New members reported between Nov. 1, 2014 and June 1, 2015, for which no recruiter was listed on the application form Stephen Banker

#### Cardinal

Jack Goffin Matthew Hougland Bill Kieffer Jack Surface Charles Tackett Lawrence Wasser

**Central States** Ni'ko Boston Steve Carter Terry Crabbs Joshua Creer Pierce Dageforde Stephen Day Luke Ervin David Fog Dennis Froeschner Derek Griffie Peter Holmes Thomas Jecha Peter Kersulis Sam Kersulis David Krenkel Nathaniel Matthews Rvan Richardet Darrell Schukei Corey Smith Perry Sukstorf Jason Taff Ray VanVoorhis Brandon Watts Michael Whalen Rodney Ziemer

#### Dixie

Trent Bynum Connor Carraway John Cook

Thomas Durham Ali Jamison Tom Lewis Matthew Powell Herman Shepard

**Evergreen** Jim Bews Gerald Bryson John Casey David Chernoff Johnny Dunnagan Michael C Friedrich Buzz Hofford Halldor Indridason Norm Johnson Antoine Jones Thomas Kaiser Kory Keeney Robert Lake Scott Lawrence Chan Leow Chuck Mailander John Moon Albert Mui Robert Nations Tim Nguyen Paul Olsen Gary Porter Rick Schroeder Jacoby Simonds **Boaz Simonds** Pete Stewart Parker Wilcock James Wilcock

#### Illinois Luke Anderson Nicolae Borcean

Tony Emerson Tom Wing Frank Glas Jarett LaBerg **Frank Thorne** Jonathan Mark Coso Shinabarger Jun Endoh Jerry Waters

#### Johnny **Appleseed**

Bill Serritella

David Iovinella

Wayne Berger Nick Dian Jim Fantone John McFarland Harald Oen Jason Sink Charles Wimmers

Land O' Lakes Don Bally Adam Cousins Rod Delaney Bob Felbel Wayne Fletcher Joel Gotz Jeremy Harris Nick Hodge Robert Hoversten Paul Kowald Peter Kudlak Darcy LeGros John Loewen Chris Neumeyer Craig Pearson Ben Pease Phil Reesnes Jeremiah Ringsmuth Timothy Sanner Steven Shoppach Ian Shoppach Andrew Tate Robert Wainwright Mark Wheeler

#### **Mid-Atlantic** Scott Anthony

Craig Wilson

Scott Burman John Dennis Donovan Chris Dugan Dean Duncan Robert Hillinck Tim Hoerning Roy Hoglund Nicholas Iponi Aaron Kaswen Charles Kempton John Kimick John Koontz Paul Lewis Paul Miklean Kalman Nanes Geoffrey Norris James Ohern Jeff Patton Rich Petillo Thomas Rosati Jet San Juan Sebastian Santiago-Rivas Richard Townsend

#### Northeastern Louis Carey II

Benjamin Weissman

Paul Davis Chris Fidler Craig Fisher Robert Foulks Aaron Freund Nicholas Hendren Larry W Hunter

Jacob Petros Josh Smallwood Douglas ViPond Mark Whipple

Vincent Pinault

## Carolinas

Adam Afifi Patrick Blaha Justin Boone Rocky Zach Buckler Josh Cook Evan Crowther Paul Fisher CH Frazier Dave Griner **David Hopkins** Jay Krimmel Bob Magera Ed Mathis Martin Matula Raymond Metzger Tyler Nickel Jay Krimmel James P Owen Jasper Powe Benjamin Pruitt

#### Ontario

Joseph Rich

Michael Rush

**David Summers** 

Rommel Berdos Glenn Brown John Dolson Ernie Dvck Mon Gamil Tom Holden Tony Nunes William Porter

Cassius Richards Lorenzo Torres Tom Watson

#### **Pioneer**

Dennis Popilek Avinash Puranik Liam Smith

Mountain Garrett Boyd Kevin Boyer LeRoy Donegan Tolex Gregory Grant Hoekstra Daniel Korman Michael Lawton Pat Smith Gordon Snyder Carl Youngblood

## Seneca Land

Melvin McConnell Raynold Prusia, Sr. Kevin Swayze

#### Sunshine

Don Butler Michael Comes Nathon Compere Keith Conaway James Crooke, III Dick Heltsley David Kerns Joseph Makray Pat Reilly William Scott Gene Stutsman

Jeremy Trout Jerry Vetowich Donnie Ward

## Southwestern

Harold Blackshear Todd Bruning David Casstevens Ronnie Corbin Mark Crim Corbin Donavan Danny Dorsey Juan Estrada Allen Everett Nathan Flynt Eddie French Eric Gehman Travis Gidley Frederick Harris Joseph Heidenreich Larry Higgins Jonathan Hill **Buddy Jones** Gary Markestad Jonathan Moss Darryl Petersen George Poynor Bob Preece Manuel Quintana Larry Risley Luis Rodriguez Bobby Russell Dean Siotos Andrew Stephens Robert Taylor

Ronald White

Jamie Carev Barry Carroll Bob Shami James Gean Donald Willoughby Jerry Harvey Charles Netherton, Jr Jeremy Hayes Louie Muzzin Jerry Hill Bill Karas II Keith Humbert Jim Lamkin Liam Keiser Paul Keiser Ronald Kinney Bill Karas II Euel Kinsey Raymond Sturdy David Koch Jeff Rayburn Stephen M Lewis Randy Campbell Lou Mauro Bill Webb Bryan Douglas Meyer Corry Demeris Sean Montgom-Nick Montgomery Kerwin Paesens Denny Wissinger Bob Price Pete Stephens-Brown Cameron Reddy Jeffrey Alden Jared Rifenburgh Eric Rifenburgh David Roggow Dick Metz Rudy Rudell Jim Lamkin Gene Schnuckel Bill McAndrew Kel Scott James Hall Cyril Sieveke Jack Guttowsky Robert Snyder, Sr. Dalton Webster David Stone John Cowlishaw Pauli Valli Allan Toivonen Ken Wells Dale Wells Richard Westover Joe McDonald

#### Rocky Mountain

David B Adamson **Bob Martinson** Clyde Bennett Byron Bennett Eric Cain Eric Annis Johnny Cheney Bart Buell Trevor Corr Pete Hyland Alan H Hale Mark Hale

Matthew Hart Matt Allen Roy Hayford Micah Maxwell Jim Heikes Jerrold Baker Elmer Jackson Dave Ring, III Matt Kirk True Kirk Michael Kirk True Kirk Tim Kloewer Darron Muehler Jonathan Laulusa Matt Allen Ben Lindsay Bob Pickett Dan Nehls James Hopper Matt Parkinson Delmar Parkinson Carter Price James Price **Bradley Richins** Earle Hollingshead Trevor Ryan Pete Anderson Ronald Sperry Wally Zentner Holden Stach Peter Stach Jan Studebaker Charles Tallman Samuel Tew Jonathan Laulusa Adam Thomsen James Price R. Scott Wagner Pete Anderson Gregory Watson Pete Anderson Mike Wenzel Peter Waldheim Chris Williams Alvin Klinger Bryan Wisdom Keith Watson

#### Seneca Land

Joe Wise

Rex Touslee

David L Allen Butch Talada Eriol Bender Kurt Miller Robert Billings Jacob Almudevar Stuart Clough Donald Many Wayne Ergott Larry Horn George Fillgrove Edgar Allen Hunter Gruber Ladd Cordner Bill LaBine Lee Shepter John Lisiesky Kenneth Gregory Clay Monson Lee Shepter Robert Paradise Jacob Almudevar

Bill Pyne

William Young

#### Sunshine

Michel Avey Richard Muir Daniel Clark Gerard Roesler Patrick Courtney David Erdman Jason Dearing Terry Ezell Gordon Douglas William Sutherland Joshua Fowler Matt Clancy Christopher Fowler Matt Clancy Ben Galivan Jonathan Riviere Erik Giesey Bob New Alexis Gutierrez Jonathan Riviere William Hacker Frank Kemnetz Arnie Holtz Les Rottner Robert Isgro Richard Matheson Robert Koski, Jr. Jesse Albritton Jordan Loganecker Ben Galivan Kody Lusk Jonathan Riviere Robert Manners Jonathan Riviere Jim McCleary Terry Garvin Adam Mooney Garrett Kivett Filipe Pequito Robert Centen Patrick Pineda Matt Clancy **Bob Rogers** Alan Case John Simmons Lance Lubin Kenneth Smeds Roger Smeds Eli Smeds

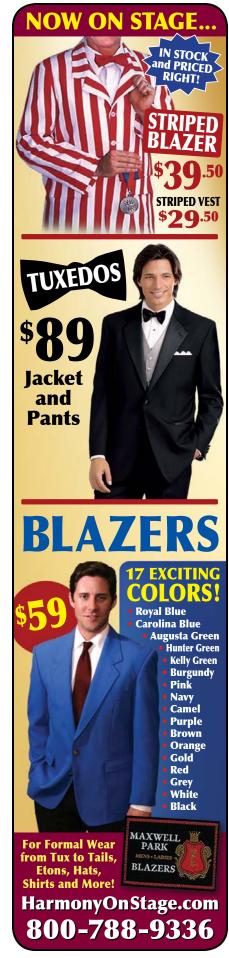
Jonathan Riviere Peter Strouss Jonathan Riviere Dan Tucker Glen Shellhammer Ricci Venslavicius Matt Clancy Curt Wood, III Phil Alden Gordon Yurich Gene Detwiler Charles Zdebski Robert Centen

Southwestern Kyle Andrews Art Smith Richard Bateman Antonio Ladeira DeWayne Beers Darrell Kirby Ray Black Dennis Trook Larry Byrd Doug Peterson, Bob Chambless Jim McConnell Austin Country-John Berry Benjamin Culver Perry Culver Perry Culver Steven Klein Thomas DeMoor Gary Wittenborn Joseph DeVoss Gil Carrick Jeffery Donahue Tim Lowrance Patrick Duquette James Robinson Ethan Duquette Patrick Duquette David Etier Lyn Fite Richard Evans Art Smith Eric Feldman Brooks Harkey Kevin L Fisher Richard Rausch Jeff Hansen

Peter Heidenreich Joseph HeidenreichMike Holland Perry Culver Dr. Eright Johnson Jeff Stone Jamison Joiner Gene Smith Rick Lay Arthur Dolt Dick Lay, Jr. Daniel Tracy David Lindley Neil West Paul Look Steve Bulls Devin Mangrum John Lovitt Craig McQuady Joe Dymale Spencer McShan Phil McShan Andrew Moorhead Frank Eychaner Ryan Moorhead Frank Eychaner Dylan Moorhead Frank Evchaner Sean Morgan Brooks Harkey Alan Morris Lew Sitterly Mitchell Oliver Steve DeCrow Noah Oliver Steve Young Tanner Perdue Hank Pivarnik Benjamin Randall Brad / Wombat Randall Richard Sloker John Devine William St John Paul Whiteman Kenneth Vane Larry Schaeff George Young

Mike Broster Adam Droegemueller





## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Shot of Dick Van Dyke earns priceless response

ot that you needed any convincing. but here's more evidence that Dick Van Dyke is a great guy and a true Barbershopper—and you may have noticed those two traits are often found together. Jake Landry,

To Jake and The Benkstono HIVSMAN,

Dvke and withing two weeks, he returned a framed version of it with his autograph and

a sketch of himself with a note: "To Jake and the Berkshire Hillsmen ... MAKE IT RING!!

I shared these and the anecdote with the chorus—they smiled and appreciated the story and images. Another example of the shared joy that barbershop brings to us!

shares the following:

president of the Berkshire Hill-

smen (Pittsfield,

Mass. Chapter)

My wife, Sharyn, and I were vacationing in British Columbia visiting Butchart Gardens when I saw a familiar face, recognized from a photo in *The Har*monizer. I took Dick Van Dyke's photo, approached him, and we talked about the fun we've had with barbershop singing. I mailed the photo to Mr. Van

From the BEST EVER files, Brothers In Harmony Chorus: "We had a special visit from some junior Barbershoppers last night. They were very good! Their teacher made them boater hats and they even had tearaway vests to go with their extensive choreography. They also treated us to a wonderful choral piece." They were from the Quinton **Township Elementary** School. See them at bit. ly/watchquintones.





Mrs. Inscho told me and my parents last year that I would love everything about Harmony Camp. The minute I walked into the dorm-I knew this was the PERFECT camp for me. To be be surrounded with tons of kids singing constantly was a a DREAM COME TRUE! I had such a great time --- we worked super hard but it was so much fun that the work was amazing. I loved everything about my experience--- the music, the campers, the coaches, the singing and the fun activities after the work!

My choir director and a visiting choir teacher/coach remarked on on the expressions on my face while singing a happy, upbeat traditional African song. I know that was because of the coaching I got at Harmony Camp to be better at "SMIZING!" (Singing and smiling with your eyes!) I was proud at the end of the year to receive one of the outstanding choral student awards. My joy of singing & performance was really energized by Harmony Camp!

Self-explanatory letter from an attendee of the long-running Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp. Thanks to all the Barbershoppers who live to give back! www.harmonycamp.org

## You have your AIC idols, but the AIC does idol worship better than anyone

Shawn York (tenor, 2008 champ **OC** *Times*) captured this incredible moment at the AIC reception in Las Vegas last year. He writes:

"Any time the **Boston Common** [1980 champs, Hall of Fame] comes out to a convention, you wonder if it might be the very last time you get to see them perform, so you really want to soak it up. This night in Las Vegas was really special—a night that every champ left in the AIC reception (late, Saturday night) will never forget. For eight minutes, time stood still, and all these legendary Barbershoppers got to sing along like kids looking up to their heroes. And once again, we all stood in awe of the Boston Common—just like it was 35 years ago. The video is

not short. but the last couple minutes sure are worth it. especially if you've got headphones to put on

(you'll feel like you're right there in the room with them).

Note: This is probably not the kind of footage that non-Barbershoppers will fully appreciate, which is why I

held onto it for so long without making it public. I hope it means as much



to you as it does to me, and everyone that got to experience it that night. The night we all got to sing with the Boston Common.

See it at vimeo.com/130294382.



## British quartet gets a lot of press after helping deliver a dentist's surprise marriage proposal

**Proper Sound** quartet (BABS) is not just singing great but doing a great job at getting national press across the pond. In January, the quartet performed "Come Fly with Me" on BBC One's Frank Sinatra: Our Way for a live TV audience. And in June of this year, they snagged a gig with a Liverpool dentist whose girlfriend had told him he was "unromantic."

Proper Sound helped fix that. And British media noticed. Sai-On Chan called on the quartet to perform in a restaurant where he and Charlot Fournier would be dining. For most of the quartet's performance of "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," they faced other tables. Then they turned to the couple as they finished the song, as Chan dropped to one knee. Cameras captured the entire exchange.

Several major news outlets picked it up. *Metro* headlined it "The proposal will restore your faith in romance." See it at http://bit.ly/bbsdentist.



## CHAPTER ETERNAL

Society members reported as deceased between May 1 and June 15, 2015. Email updates to customerservice@barbershop.org.

### **Central States**

Jerry Easter Cedar Rapids, IA Black Hawk Metro, IA Milwaukee, WI St. Charles, MO

#### Evergreen

John Chaffey Central Oregon, OR Jay Langley Central Oregon, OR

#### Far Western

Norman Pincock Palomar Pacific, CA Temecula, CA Neal Sisson Placerville, CA

#### Johnny **Appleseed**

Franklin Allison Pittsburgh North Hills, PA Joseph Lobue Butler , PA Darryl McKitrick Marion, OH

#### Land O' Lakes

William "Big Toot" Dorow

### **Mid-Atlantic**

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#### Carolinas

James Preston Frank Thorne

#### Northeastern

Robert Burian Bridgenort CT Paul McNamara Norwich CT Duncan Stephens, III Waterbury/Derby, CT

#### Ontario

Garth Beattie Grimsby, ON North Bay, ON Brian Mitchell Quinte Regional, ON Huntsville, ON Dyson Pinhey Ottawa, ON

#### Seneca Land

Walter Hastings Painted Post, NY

#### **Sunshine**

William Kellogg Fort Walton Beach, FL Panama City, FL Art Lemieux Citrus County, FL

#### Southwestern

Lowell McCullev Houston, TX Alvin, TX

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## Friends in Harmony

Sing Canada Harmony www.SingCanadaHarmony.ca

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

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia www.sinfonia.org

World Harmony Council www.worldbarbershop.com

**National Museum for** African-American Music

www.nmaam.org

**Sweet Adelines International** www.sweetadelineintl.org

Harmony, Incorporated www.harmonyinc.org

**National Association** for Music Education www.nafme.org

Chorus America www.chorusamerica.org

Ladies Association of **British Barbershop Singers** 

www.labbs.org.uk

## Society Subsidiaries (partial list)

Association of **International Champions** www.AICGold.com

Association of International **Seniors Quartet Champions** 

www.aisqc.com

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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.

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

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



here have been many requests for a new Barberpole

## Great old chart from new Barberpole Cat II!

Barberpole Cat

Cat collection. The first grouping had 13 songs and was later revised to 12 songs in an updated version. Most of the songs remained the same, however. Singers seem to want some singing material that is just a little more challenging that most can wrap their voices around. Well, welcome to Barberpole Cat II!! What a fantastic bundle of barbershop arrangements ... 12 in all and each one a singing treasure sung

by outstanding quartets.

Here's the list: "After You've Gone" (2002 champ Four Voices), "Bright Was the Night" (1993 champ The Gas House Gang), "Caroline" (1980 champ Boston Common), "Darkness on the Delta" (1978 champ Bluegrass Student Union), "Drivin' Me Crazy" (2008 champ OC Times and 1993 champ Keepsake), "From the First Hello" (Boston Common), "Goodbye My Coney Island Baby" (pretty much everyone), "Hello Mary Lou" (a special favorite), "I Don't Know Why" (recent BHS published hit), "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

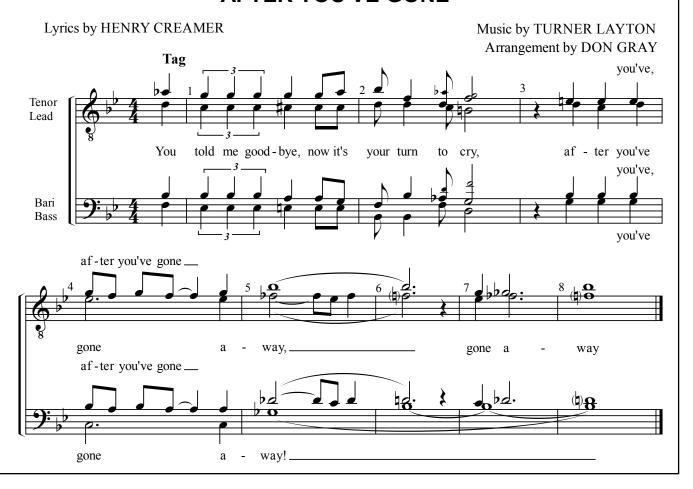
> (sung by almost every collegiate barbershop quartet), "Lida Rose" (1950 champ Buffalo Bills, 1958 champ Gay Notes), and, finally, "Over the Rainbow" (1989 champ Second

Edition). This is a collection that every Barbershopper should own. It's full name is Barberpole Cat Songbook II and the printed copy product number is 209322. In addition, a digital format

version for use on your portable devices is available, 209329, both at http://shop.barbershop.org.

The tag in this issue is from "After You've Gone" ... arranged by Don Gray and, as mentioned, sung by Four Voices. Now ... order your copy of the new book right away and sing your heart out ... with three others, of course.

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