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## HARMONIZER FALL/WINTER 2000 SCHEDULE

*make sure to confirm (sign-up sheets) performances*

Tues	Nov 14	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Nov 21	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Nov 25	Dickens' Days	Clinton	3 p.m.
Tues	Nov 28	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Sun	Dec 3	Holiday Parade in Flemington		6 p.m.
Tues	Dec 5	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Weds	Dec 6	Lights of Love at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington		6 p.m.
Sat	Dec 9	CHRISTMAS SHOW (2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.) at NHRHS		
Tues	Dec 12	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Dec 19	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Jan 2, 2001	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.

### “HOLIDAY HARMONY” SHOW!

Our show, “HOLIDAY HARMONY, It’s a Wonderful Barbershop Life” (our own musical version of *It’s A Wonderful Life*) will be presented at North Hunterdon High School on December 9. There will be two shows—one at 2 p.m. and one at 7:30 p.m. This year we will be featuring the Hampton Avenue a capella group and the Cooper Youth Choir in the second act of the show.

Our shows have been successful both artistically and financially for the last two years because ALL of you got involved and supported the project. Please do your part to sell both ads and tickets.

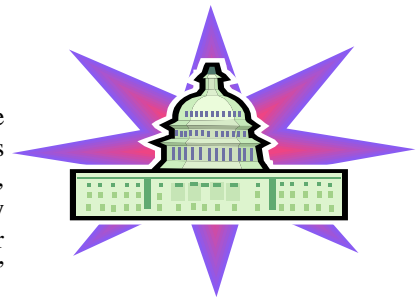
Ticket prices are as follows: \$5 general admission for the 2 p.m. show, \$10 for reserved seats; \$8 general admission for the 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 for reserved seats.

Contact Ron Roth for ad specifications and pricing.

**UPDATED DIRECTORY OF  
HARMONIZERS is at practice for review.  
Copies will be available November 14.**

### THE RVCC “STEPS”

On October 28, nine of our Harmonizers donned skimmers, suspenders, gaudy ties, and other “politically incorrect” garb to regale the attendees before the performance by the infamous CAPITOL STEPS at RVCC. Our 45-minute mini-concert might have delayed the start of the performance, but the event chairman, theater director, and college president were all delighted!



Thanks to Don & Lee for leading this event, and to the other conventioners: Ron, Tim, Tom, Pat, Rusty, Warren, and Jim. Our pictures are on the RVCC web site at [http://www.raritanval.edu/theatre/opening\\_night.htm](http://www.raritanval.edu/theatre/opening_night.htm)!

And while you’re surfing, check out Harmony Square’s latest gig on their website at <http://www.njharmonizers.org/harmsqr/index.html>.



## **SINGING IN TUNE**

by Fred King, international coach  
(from Dundalk Md Charivari, Tom Wheatley, editor)

*[Freddie has agreed to share some of his coaching tips with us. The article below is the continuation of a series of sections dealing with singing in tune. Although the presentation was written from the standpoint of coaching, we should be able to apply it to ourselves, thus, in effect, becoming our own coaches.]*

### **Chapter 3**

The resonating cavities can be fully utilized only when the throat is relaxed, open and the upper throat arched in a high palate position. The mouth is best used as a resonance chamber when all the muscles, including the tongue, are relaxed and the cavity of the mouth is enlarged. The nasopharynx and the nasal cavity are most effectively used when a slight opening between the oropharynx and the nasopharynx is maintained, thus allowing an extension of the vibrating column of air emanating from the larynx. The feeling involved in this is similar to yawning.

If the resonance is closed, muffled, nasal, or pinched, as the result of partially closed resonators, the singer will tend to flat. Let's take the first three areas covered and make up an expression which holds true to a great degree.

### **Chapter 4**

Breath control is certainly an important factor, and material is available to make it possible to learn or to teach how to breathe properly. It's important to avoid flattening in particular because it is necessary to keep an adequate supply of air exerting pressure against the vocal chords. Wasting breath initially by uncontrolled attacks at the beginning of phrases or taking too little breath causes the singer to run out of air before reaching the end of the phrase. This will result in flattening.

Singing softly seems to cause special problems for many singers. They have the tendency not to energize themselves sufficiently, thus permitting the pharynx to collapse, eliminating the resonance and destroying breath support. This results in a lowering of tone.

To control this, have the singer show his upper teeth slightly when singing softly. This helps take the weight off the voice. An elongated movement of the jaw should be minimized. On the other hand, singing loudly with too heavy a tone quality also leads to flattening, as will excessive vibrato and tremolo. These last two do not allow the other parts to tune to the problem voice.

A quartet or chorus that fails to embrace the basic balance rules of volume relationships as written up in the singing category and the Basic Barbershop Craft Manual will sometimes produce a rough or dissonant sound. This impedes the singers' ability to hear good tuning. The dissonance also may be perceived as being out of tune.

Next month, we will touch upon other causes of flattening. Remember, there's a test coming. Actually, the test is given each time we have a chance to sing together. Next month, we'll get into more of the discussion of control aspects needed for good singing.

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**Alert Posture + Accurate Hearing + High-Arched Tone Utilizing the Resonators = No Flattening**

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## **THE FIRST CHORUS CONTESTS**

By 1952, a new facet in Barbershop competition was gaining steam—chorus contests. In the summer of 1952, both the Land O' Lakes District and the Johnny Appleseed District held chorus contests with more than 1,000 barbershoppers and members of their families attending each. These were not the first chorus contests in those districts but they were indications of the growing enthusiasm. Others of the 14 districts had chorus contests scheduled for the late summer and early fall months. The first Michigan District chorus contest was held in July of 1952 with nine choruses competing and roughly 2,100 barbershoppers and their families attending.

The first international chorus contest was held in Detroit at the 1953 convention. The winners, the Great Lakes Chorus of

Grand Rapids, Michigan, were acclaimed the "1953 International Convention Championship Chorus." Fifteen other choruses competed, and the affair was considered a big success. It was an experiment to test the popularity of the chorus contest idea, but not all districts were represented, so it was not until 1954 in Washington, D.C., that the winning chorus, the Singing Capital Chorus of the host chapter, could be crowned the "SPEBSQSA International Chorus Champions." Some 889 men in 23 choruses were involved in that contest, which from then on became an official part of the annual convention program.

—From *Heritage of Harmony*, edited by Val Hicks, published by SPEBSQSA, 1988, for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society.

## **THE MANY WAYS WE SING... FOR LIFE!**

*by Ed Kunkel*

If you didn't read "Charitable Activities" on page 13 of the *Harmonizer* (September/October issue), you might be excused. After all, this is a magazine about music—not finances. But, is the article really about finances? If you haven't read it, do so NOW. That's right, NOW.

If you *did* read "Charitable Activities" previously—read it again before continuing here.

So, you found out it really was about music after all. What other reason would there be for Harmony Foundation to exist but to support people's need to sing to add quality to their life.

Let me share a real-life experience with you.

Several years ago my wife, Millie, and I were entertained while on an Elderhostel in Virginia by a local bluegrass band. They were terrific! When we talked with them later, I asked if bluegrass music was a part of the school music curriculum. The response was, "What school music? There is no money for music in the school budget." I felt my heart leave my body at that time.

In affluent New Jersey it's easy to take music in schools for granted. But hundreds of thousands of other young people are not so fortunate. Harmony Foundation is truly making a difference. I am happy to be a member of HF because somewhere in the United States someone is singing with a happier heart because of our society.

Click on **Harmony Foundation** on our society web page ([www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)) for additional insights into MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

**WE SING ... FOR LIFE!**



## **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Many ideas have been bounced around and acted upon to increase our membership. A mailing went out to 34 guys that had either sung with us or been guests at one time or another and/or were names on the "guest & prospect" mailing list. They were invited to sing with us for the Holiday show. No need to join and no commitment. If you have other ideas fell free to mention them to Lee Roth. This is an on-going activity!

### **YOUTH FESTIVAL**

Ron Roth has our Youth event on the way to being organized. He has been communicating with county music teachers to get them lined up with students for the selected February 10, 2001 event. Lee Roth has confirmed with Chris Peterson that he will be with us. Ron has arranged for the use of the North Hunterdon facilities again this year. Anyone interested in helping out with this event we'd appreciate hearing from you. Just get in touch with Ron Roth and let him know you are available to help him get in touch with the teachers and arrange for music distribution. We will also need help putting a show together for the end of the day. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

## **OFFICERS/CHAIRMEN**

<b>President:</b>	Dick Taylor
<b>Director:</b>	Don Reckenbeil
<b>Chapter Development:</b>	Lee Roth
<b>Music &amp; Performance:</b>	Rusty Williams
<b>Singing Valentines:</b>	Charlie Sousa
<b>Uniforms:</b>	Lou Bowers
<b>Tshirts:</b>	Charlie Mohr
<b>Badges:</b>	Nick Rigas
<b>Learning tapes:</b>	Rusty Williams
<b>Public Relations:</b>	Jack Gardner
<b>Youth Festival (Feb 10):</b>	Ron Roth
<b>Chapter Welfare:</b>	Nick Rigas
<b>Guest Night:</b>	Charlie Mohr
<b>Program Team:</b>	Lou Barile
<b>Correspondence:</b>	David Holzwarth
<b>Coffee cups, magnets, etc.</b>	Dennis McKeivitt
<b>Shop Rite coupons</b>	Rich Kacvinski
<b>Webmaster</b>	Warren Lieuallen



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*It's Great to be a Barbershopper in Hunterdon County!*