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HARMONIZER WINTER 2000-2001 SCHEDULE

make sure to confirm (sign-up sheets) performances

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.
Fri	Dec 8	Dress Rehearsal	NHRHS	TBA
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	SPECIAL EVENT !	VA Hospital	7:00 p.m.
Tues	Jan 2, 2001	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Jan 9	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan 13	INSTALLATION DINNER	TBA	TBA
Tues	Jan 16	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Jan 23	Regular Rehearsal	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Tues	Jan 30	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 capella group and the Cooper Youth Choir in the second act of the show.

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.

HARMONY SQUARE MAKES HISTORY!

by Warren Lieuallen

On September 23, 2000, the Harmony Square quartet (Tim Snyder, Don Reckenbeil, Art Cole and Warren Lieuallen) sang for the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration at the Woodcliff Lakes Hilton in northern New Jersey. The theme of the meeting was flowers, so of course Harmony Square prepared for a show about flour, and sang all the baking songs they knew (which, admittedly, were few and far between!).

Despite this obvious (and expected) intellectual limitation, the show was a big hit. The audience really got into the spirit of things and seemed to appreciate the spectacularly corny Harmony Square delivery. Warren’s bizarre rendition of Comin’ Thru the Rye was particularly well received! They were especially delighted when a volunteer “randomly” selected from the audience (our own Lee Roth) replaced Don to sing Lovin’ My Baby On-Line.



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 5

In addition to the reasons covered in prior chapters, there are other causes of flattening. These are basically self-explanatory.

- Unless releases are precise and intensely vitalized, there will often be a slight drop in pitch.
- Slurring, scooping or approaching notes from below will result in flattening.
- Repeated notes in a phrase are often wrongly approached from below. This causes each succeeding note to be slightly lower in pitch.
- Faulty diction causes flattening.
- Attacking a singing consonant below the pitch of the following vowel, and then sliding up to it will produce flattening. The singable consonant must always be sung on the pitch of the following vowel. Particular attention must be paid to L, M and N.
- Insecurity in voice parts, guessing at notes and following rather than thinking for oneself will lead to flattening.
- Overlearning a selection (going stale) likewise leads to flattening.
- Having singers in the wrong voice part may cause them to sing out of tune.

HARMONY SQUARE MAKES HISTORY *(continued)*

Even though they got a late start (the dinner ran almost an hour behind schedule), Harmony Square kept toes tapping throughout their entire 45 minute set. Audience participation was encouraged during Let Me Call You Sweetheart, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

As much fun as this show was, Harmony Square received their loudest ovation later in the evening, when they crashed a wedding reception, chased the very professional, tuxedo and black gown clad 11-piece band off the stage, and sang their Married Medley to the very surprised newly-wedded bride and groom! I don't think I've ever been in a situation before where I can honestly say "and the crowd went wild!",

SPECIAL EVENT AT VA HOSPITAL

We will be singing for our War Veterans this year. If at all possible, take the time to do something special for the holidays on December 19, when we will share our spirit with the veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital. This will be an expression of what we Harmonizers truly believe in. A musical holiday gift to those who gave of themselves for our country!

YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY ADJUDICATION QUARTET COMPETITIONS

Saturday, January 20, 2001 and Saturday, February 3, 2001
For more information, see Lee Roth.

OCTOBER 5-6, 2001 IS THE NEW DATE FOR THE M-AD FALL CONVENTION

The date for the 2001 Fall District Convention has officially been changed to October 5-6, 2001.

The new date is the holiday weekend and does not interfere with Yom Kippur or other religious holidays. After conferring with the Mid-Atlantic officials the Society has granted the date change request.

The Wildwood Convention Center has been reserved for the new date.

Check in regularly on the M-AD Website which is located at: <http://mad.spebsqsa.org/> for more information.



APPLAUSE!

Don't miss APPLAUSE! — the Harmonizers' a capella radio show — every Thursday from 7-10 p.m. on WDVR 89.7 FM and on the web!

CONTEST RECOUNT

Ladies & Gentlemen:

This is indeed a dark day. Sadly, it has come to the attention of certain of our musical leadership team members, along with knowledgeable administrative board members and family and friends that a grave injustice was wrought in the recent barbershop chorus competition. It is clear that the outcome was not at all what we had expected and a closer examination of the facts reveals several very important areas in which the issues involved might be redressed. To wit: (Note the very sharp and certainly timely legal-eze lingo)

1. Surely we meant to take our full chorus to the contest. Unfortunately several of our snowbird members, some of our best singers, were delayed in a monster snow storm in - - - Buffalo - - -yeah that's it, it was in buffalo.
2. About that pitch thing. We intended to sing on pitch. Consideration should have been given for the fact that we were only confused in the pressure of the moment and our hearing failed us. We had spent considerable time in trying to correct that very concern. Our intent should have been obvious. If only there had been more time. They set those pesky arbitrary dates and times for the competition. If we had more time to prepare, we would have been perfect (not that at any time we are willing to concede that we were less than perfect).
3. We surely planned to smile more and to make all of our moves in a warm and wonderfully spectacular, beautifully conceived, smartly executed way. It is just that some of us are elderly and it was difficult for us to push our hands out to the desired position in coordination with our fellow singers. It was noted that some of our counterparts from other cities have considerably younger singers and much younger directors in their choruses. How fair is that?
4. Any thinking person possessing a whit of fairness in him/her (note the clever and timely politically correct reference) would know that we wanted to sing smoothly and with world-class vocal quality. It was most certainly our intention.
5. The musical arrangements we chose to sing were surely good enough to allow other performers (notably medallists) to meet and exceed standards in other contest venues. Our intent was, without question, to interpret them in ways that would impress and overwhelm the judges. Everyone knows that we sang them with exactly the same treatment that the big guys did.
6. The judges. Ah yes, the judges. There, perhaps is the most telling issue of the contest experience. First, it needs to be acknowledged that most of the judges were from out of state. How then could they possibly have known our intent? They came flying in here from all corners of the globe (is that possible?) and in the flicker of an eye tried to evaluate the performances of dozens of

Obviously they were under massive undue stress and were, consequently, unable to fairly adjudicate the performances of these diverse groups. Notably, in the stress of a highly intense contest atmosphere, some of them may well have intended to award considerably higher numbers to our performance. I certainly believe that to be true. A certain unnamed source, of impeccable credentials and with special access to the process was able to discern massive hesitation among several judges. It has also been alleged that there were certain, nearly intelligible indentations on a number of score sheets. Those markings might well be interpreted as the numeral (1) when found (or imagined) in front of the 57's and 60's that were later mistakenly tallied by clearly overworked and arguably myopic certification officials. One can only imagine the effect that a fairer evaluation of those numbers might have wrought.

7. Fairness, decency and the American way dictate that these grave injustices be revisited aggressively and repeatedly until the desired effect is accomplished. Could anyone actually believe that we intended to sing badly? Let us appeal to any and whatever authority is required to cause a fair and equitable reevaluation of this travesty. We believe that a fresh look and another and another and still another look at this new information, along with the application of standards of decency, fairness, fuzzy warmth, wishful thinking, slight-of-hand and just a few post-contest changes in the rules will give us a standing in this recent contest that is much more to our liking. Certainly, it will reflect the position that we intended to assume. Your opinions are encouraged, so long as they are friendly and non-confrontational.

An aggrieved competitor/director,
Glenn E. Van Tassell, Gentlemen's Agreement
(a Florida resident!)

OFFICERS/CHAIRMEN

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



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