



VOLUME 4, Issue 4
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**COMMITTEE
CHAIRMEN**

Music:

Assistant Directors

Rich Taylor
Rusty Williams
George Schwerdt (warm-up)

HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2002 SCHEDULE

make sure to confirm your commitment to performances (sign-up sheets)

Regular scheduled Chapter Rehearsal/Meeting, Tuesdays	Elks	7:30 p.m.
Sat Apr 6	Bus trip to Alexandria, VA, Harmonizers Show	
Thurs May 2	Lyons Veterans Singout	VA Hospital 7:30 p.m.
Sat May 4	CD Taping session (Total chorus)	Stanton Church TBA
Mon May 27	Memorial Day Parade	Flemington, late morning
Fri-Sat June 7-8	Northern Division Contest	
Mon June 24	Patriots Ball Game	
Thurs June 27	Concert-in-the-Park at Deer Path Park— MAJOR EVENT!	7:00 p.m.
Sundays July/Aug	Octets/Quartets various Church Choir relief program	
Sun Aug 11	2nd Annual Barbershop Ball Game (pending confirmation)	
Sun Aug 25	Annual Hunterdon Harmonizers' Picnic at Deer Path Park	
Sat-Sun Sept 21-22	Annual Craft Show in Flemington	
Fri-Sat Oct 4-5	Fall District Convention in Wildwood	
Sat Oct 19	CD Taping session (Total chorus)	
Sat Nov 30	Dickens' Day in Clinton	
Wed Dec 4	Lights of Love at the Hunterdon Medical Center	
Fri-Sat Dec 6-7	Holiday Show	
Sun Dec 8	Christmas Parade in Flemington	

SCARRED, BUT NOT SCARED . . . NOT TOO MUCH ANYWAY

How about Scarred for Life? The youngest members of the Harmonizers appeared at Café Solé for a birthday celebration in front of 50 delighted party-goers. The current edition of this quartet, which had as many as 6 members last year, consists of **Murray Natkie, Jesse Mazzariello, Jensen Galfond, and Michael Mazzariello**. In addition to the required "Happy Birthday," the quartet entertained the crowd with "Hello Mary Lou," "In the Still of the Night," and their signature, "Bad, Bad Barbershop Boys."

One very impressed patron just had to ask, "how old are you guys, anyway?" Answer: the quartet members are 14 and 15 years old,

which means when **Rich Taylor** started working with them in October of 2000, the FOUR of them combined were not as old as he was! Pause here, and think of RT cringing.

According to Murray's mother, Kathy, the quartet's unconventional name is a tongue-in-cheek dig on the supposed results of their home schooling, and according to **Rich Taylor**, it's because of his coaching. Oh well, they'll have their jokes, but these are great young men, and we're all proud to have them in the Hunterdon Chapter. AND...they bought a pitch pipe and are learning "Lida Rose." We are all looking and listening forward to their next excellent adventures!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

H-e-l-l-o!!!

Well, the Harmonizers are off to another busy schedule. The recording of the first of four sessions for the NEW CD to be released in early spring 2003 has been rescheduled for May 4. We will break these sessions into 3-4 parts to ensure a high-quality product. To all those who are helping to make this a great CD, THANK YOU! and keep up the good work. I would like to thank our music team, headed by **Ed Kunkel**, and our vocal coach, Bill Stauffer, for their dedication in making the first part a success.

Don't forget, April 6 is an all-day excursion to the Alexandria Harmonizers Show. There are only a few tickets left and we want to sell out our bus. Make sure you contact **Ron Roth** with any questions you may have.

We've been asked by the American Legion to entertain at the Lyons VA Hospital on May 2. These veterans always appreciate us, so look for the sign-up sheet on Tuesday!

We've introduced another contest song with choreography and I want to emphasize how important it is for you to put in as much time as necessary to practice on your own. Don't be afraid to ask your section leader for help. We will be assigning riser positions for the division contest in June. If you don't know the words, notes, and choreography, you will not be invited to perform. Those not invited to perform can help us with other jobs. We are seeking someone to run our audio and video camera during rehearsal and at performances. If you know anyone please speak to **Ed Kunkel** or myself.

Chord..ly,

Richard Kacvinski



MAKING QUALITY MUSIC

by Ed Kunkel, Music VP

Rereading barbershop materials to reaffirm what makes a quality singing chorus!

STOP THE RECYCLING before rereading some timely articles. Recently I have discovered that one needs to be careful about putting some things in the recycling bin too early. Stories about the experiences of successful barbershop chapters are worth reading again to put into context the Harmonizers' mission to improve.

It may be too late but start with the Nov/Dec issue of the *Harmonizer* magazine. New members might want to ask "old" members to lend them their copy. "Enjoy the Journey," on pages 18-20, summarizes what our 2001 International champions, the New Tradition Chorus, did over a span of several years in order to take their trophy home to Illinois. The two sentences that I think have special meaning to chapters wanting to progress musically while having fun are, "On rehearsal nights, the fun doesn't stem from social chatting...." and "The fun is striving to produce the best sound we can as a team."

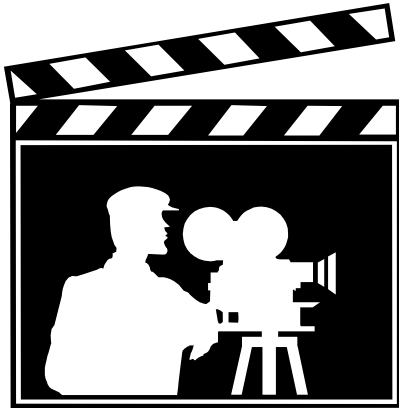
Next, read **Rusty Williams'** Directors' Notes in the last edition of *In Tune* again. This excellent account of Bill Stauffer's coaching session is worth cutting out and hanging on your mirror or place it wherever you can get re-enforcement of what you need to do today and tomorrow. You may think you are getting enough through Don's frequent reminders. But more will be better.

Read the current edition of *Harmonizer* again and again. There is a definite theme throughout, starting with Executive Director Darryl Flynn's "Having fun while working hard" on page 2. What he says works in Albuquerque can work in Hunterdon County where it is "great to be a Barbershopper!"

Oh, yes, the Music Team met on March 4, and we had a great time reaffirming Bill's words of wisdom and planning details for having fun while making quality sounds. Especially through FOCUS-FOCUS-FOCUS!

UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE

We now have the capability to update changes in personal information on the Society Members Only site (<http://www.spebsqsa.org/members>). The site *can and should* be used by all members for any changes such as e-mail, home address, phone number, etc.



DIRECTORS' NOTES

by Don Reckenbeil, Director

Prepare Ye the Way to Record!

Great job, Harmonizers, in getting ready for the first recording session for our 2003 "Inspirational" CD! Our preparation for this event has taught us a great deal about the way we go about improving our skills—which will help us prepare for our future recording sessions (not to mention our contests and shows as well!). I believe we can boil down the "lessons learned" into three important items.

Firstly, commit to learning your **notes and words** accurately, so you can "sail through" your Section Leader reviews. This also contributes to the clarity of the Hunterdon Harmonizer's sound!

Secondly, **calendar clearance!** Mark the recording session dates on your personal calendars, so we can avoid conflicts in fielding the best group of HH's possible for any given event.

And finally, **sing your best**—always! The excellent coaching sessions from Bill Stauffer have given us some very specific items to address. Let me list some of them here:

General recommendations:

1. Need a freer tone.
 2. Darker voices in the center; lighter voices around them.
 3. Use "Nih" to help start on correct pitch.
 4. How to sing higher on pitch?
 - AIR moving.
 - Mouth open.
 - Think high.
 - Create SPACE inside.
 - That is, **AIR and SPACE**.
5. Vowels—Ee through Ah is taller (inside OR outside).
 6. Pass 20x more air than before.
 7. Put your energy into beauty, not volume.
 8. LONG vowels—Sing longest possible until forced to change.
 9. Don't chew vowels.
 10. Target the primary part of the diphthong.
 11. Goal is to COMMUNICATE the story!
 12. Don't sing without PURPOSE.
 13. Lazy? Probably more lack of FOCUS.
 14. Greg Lyne—"In-Line Singing"—DO IT!
 15. Warmth of tone is key.
 16. When in doubt, sing less with greater quality.
 17. Keep next note same as the one you left (assuming you started with good quality!).
 18. So, discipline, reset, feel good, next one on vowel target, good, next one, etc.
 19. RESET, whenever you have an opportunity.
 20. Take time to breathe.
 21. Sing "eh" with "ah" space.
 22. Higher frequencies always carry more/farther. So, when add ping/placement, it becomes barbershop.
 23. Energy and intensity is NOT volume.
- Section-Specific pointers:
24. Leads need more musical sensitivity.
 25. Leads need more character.
 26. Leads—Add 5% more resonance to front resonators.
 27. Leads—Forward is better!
 28. Basses—Need consistent stream of air below everything.
 29. Basses—Also sing to the fingertips.
 30. Basses—Almost sing through the bottom teeth on low tones. Don't push.
 31. Basses—Whenever there's an opportunity to jump out, EASE OFF.
 32. Baris—Maintain a warm stream of air.
 33. Baris—Round out the edges.
 34. Tenors—Sit on Lead's sound; back off a little.
 35. Tenors—Sparkle!

If we really work at holding the gains, we will be richly rewarded!

HARMONY SQUARE AND VOICE ACTIVATION = HUNTERDON MUSICAL ARTS CHAMBER SERIES HIT



The Hunterdon Musical Arts took an unprecedented step in their long-running series and asked the Hunterdon Harmonizers to present a program of barbershop-style harmony. Two chapter quartets—Harmony Square and Voice Activation—put together a program that musically presented the roots of the barbershop style, its progression through the Tin Pan Alley days, and its ready adaptation of today's popular music. Presented in the Stanton Reformed Church, maybe the best acoustical chamber on the planet, the harmony soared! By the time the program closed with the combined quartets performing "The Lord's Prayer" and the

entire audience joining in for "God Bless America" there was no question that our purely American amalgamated art form had a place in the Chamber Series.

Special thanks to **Lee Roth** for his emcee and organizing roles, **George Schwerdt**, for stepping in as Harmony Square's tenor, and to the two quartets for a great program.

Sadly, this was Voice Activation's final performance, since our tenor, TJ, will be unable to continue because of job and career responsibilities.

—Rusty Williams



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 08 Ed Kunkel
- 21 Anthony Weber
- 24 Richard Cornelison
- 26 Michael Mazzariello

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

According to ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers), what was the musical work that was performed most often theatrically in the 20th century? Could it be a seasonal favorite like "White Christmas" or "Silent Night," any of the Beatles' many well-known melodies, or maybe something patriotic like the "Star Spangled Banner" or "God Bless America?" The winner by a huge margin is "Happy Birthday to You!" The song and its copyright have a long history. First published in 1893 by Mildred and Patty Hill of Louisville, the song was included in their collection "Song Stories for Kindergarten" as a greeting for the students.

"Good morning to you, Good morning to you,
"Good morning dear children, Good morning to you."

To which the students would respond in kind with "Good morning dear teacher, Good morning to you." This little ditty was readily adaptable to other messages, and somewhere before 1920, "Happy Birthday" pretty much took over the melody and settled into the serenade we know today.

In 1935, the surviving copyright holder, Jessica Hill (sister number 3) successfully proved that "Good Morning to You" and Happy Birthday to You" were one in the same. The renewed copyright (covering the words) will expire in the year 2030. Talk about a long-running hit!

Where "White Christmas" was the feature song for two big-hit movies (White Christmas and Holiday Inn), "Happy Birthday" has been performed in hundreds of films and shows, with copyright clearance going for up to \$50,000 a pop. Lee Marvin's rendition (to a corpse) in "Cat Ballou" was a real show-stopper!

Next time you join in to sing "Happy Birthday" to a friend, relative, or total stranger, you might wonder how many smiles Mildred and Patty have brought into the world with their simple "Good Morning," and marvel at how far the song has traveled from its Kindergarten birth in Louisville, Kentucky.

CRAFT CORNER

by George Schwerdt, Assistant Director

So what's in a vowel sound? "You say potato and I say potato"—that's what. Now *there's* a line that's designed to sound pretty interesting, but it certainly tends to lose something in print !

The first po-TAY-to uses a long 'A' which, as we know, is a diphthong. To properly sing the long 'A', we must think and actually produce the sounds 'EH' and 'EE'. Po-teh-ee-to. Not only that, but to be really good, we all have to get to the 'EE' part at the same time. We refer to this as turning the diphthong. It's a conscious and physical move on each singers' part and one that Don will sometimes direct.

As a general rule, never turn a diphthong until you absolutely have to. That's just before the next sound you have to produce. To move earlier is to produce a vowel migration where the sound of the chorus becomes mismatched and a beautiful chord will go you-know-where in a hand basket.

The second po-TAH-to is a little easier, but we still have to agree on the sound. Imagine the difference between the way the Queen of England would say it (po-tahhhhh-to) versus how Jerry Lewis would say it (po-taaaaah-to). Thanks to our recent sessions with Bill Stouffer, we should all know that the tall, resonant, 'in-line' sound for an 'AH' vowel is the best and will produce the grade 'A' chords that we're striving for.

(to be continued)



COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

(continued)

Choreographer
Vida Allworthy

Section Leader, Tenor
George Schwerdt

Section Leader, Lead
Rich Taylor

Section Leader, Baritone
Brian Lipe

Section Leader, Bass
Rusty Williams

Chorus Manager
Vacant

Electronic Equipment & Learning Tapes
Charlie Mohr

Music Librarian
Ed Kunkel

Vocal Coach
Vacant

Shows and Performances:

Craft Show
Richard Cornelison
Tony Weber

District Convention
Lee Roth

Holiday Show
Ron Roth

Picnic
Richard Kacvinski
Rusty Williams

Singing Valentines
Jim Knight
Charlie Sousa

Church Choir Relief (summer)
Jack Gardner

Chorus Welfare:

Badges
Nick Rigas

Health & Welfare
Nick Rigas

Uniforms
Lou Bowers

Housing (Elks)
Art Cole

Chorus Merchandise:

T-shirts
Tim Snyder

CD's
Richard Kacvinski
Ron Roth

Cups, etc.
Dennis McKeveitt

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Lou Barile

Refreshments
Clarke Applegate
Robert Herbstzuber

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Jesse Mazzariello
Michael Mazzariello

Public Relations
Jack Gardner

Young Men in Harmony
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Rich Taylor

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Recording Secretary
Linda Williams