



VOLUME 4, Issue 7
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Richard Kacvinski

Immediate Past President

Richard Taylor

Director

Don Reckenbeil

Chapter Development VP

Lee B. Roth

Music & Performance VP

Ed Kunkel

Program VP

Lou Barile

Secretary

Ron Roth

Treasurer

Richard Cornelison

Board Members

Art Cole
Jack Gardner
Charlie Mohr
Charlie Sousa

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Music:

Assistant Directors

Rich Taylor
Rusty Williams
George Schwerdt

Choreographer

Vida Allworthy

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HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2002 SCHEDULE

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

Regular scheduled Chapter Rehearsal/Meeting, Tuesdays	Elks	7:30 pm
Sat Oct 19	Micro-HEP	Princeton am/pm
Sat Nov 30	Dickens' Days	Clinton
Wed Dec 4	Lights of Love	Hunterdon Medical Center
Fri-Sat Dec 6-7	Annual Holiday Show	TBA
Sun Dec 8	Christmas Parade	Flemington TBA

HARMONIZERS OPEN NEW WILDWOOD CONVENTION CENTER



On Friday, October 4, the new Wildwood Convention Center welcomed the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* and more than 1,000 other barbershoppers from the Mid-Atlantic District of SPEBSQSA who competed in the annual quartet and

chorus competitions. Music was everywhere, chords rang up and down the boardwalk, and four guys who had just met stopped to sing a tag on a beautiful, warm, and sunshiny Friday afternoon.

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CHORUS COMPETITION

The competition between the top 25 choruses in the six-state area got underway at 10 a.m. By the luck of the draw we kicked off the festivities by performing first. A small but enthusiastic crowd greeted us and it appears they were not disappointed. Our contest package included two parodies written by our assistant director, **Rusty Williams**, and our Music Team. In these parodies we poke gentle fun at a computer nerd who is having problems locating his lady love. **Chris Fordice** starred as the stumbling nerd who nearly blew out the whole performance. Our director, **Don Reckenbeil**, pulled the Harmonizers together to finish the package. In the end love conquers all and the nerd waltzed off with his beautiful blond (our choreographer, **Vida Allworthy**).

This entertaining package had the audience laughing and clapping, and ended graciously with a standing ovation. What a great way to set up the day! Being the first chorus to compete gave the Harmonizers another advantage—the opportunity to enjoy the performances of the other 24 competitors. Part of our package was a pyrotechnic “bang” cooked up by **Mike and Chris Fordice**. When some of the pyro fell onto a sign behind the computer and began to visibly burn, we began to wonder if we’d be the first chorus to both begin and end the contest!! The fire went out, and we went on. The highlight of the afternoon came when the *Alexandria Harmonizers* performed their own stirring rendition of “Alexander’s Ragtime Band.” It was a dazzling display of great sound, stunning visual images, and patriotic fervor. The crowd roared! Nine judges felt the same way and sent the Alexandria chorus to compete in the International Championships as our Mid-Atlantic District representative.

QUARTET COMPETITION

The quartet competition was tightly contested. When the dust settled *Wheelhouse* edged out the *FreeLancers* by just half a point. The audience was not surprised. When *Wheelhouse* took the stage in the preliminary competition, they TOOK the stage! Every move and every ringing chord said, “This competition is ours!” Off-stage they looked a lot less confident as they nervously waited for the judges to tally the results. They accepted their trophy with tears in their eyes, thanking their coach who had brought them so far in such a short time.

FAMILY TIME

The weekend was not just about competition. Many of the barbershoppers brought their families to enjoy the festivities. A highlight for the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* was having dinner Saturday night at a great Italian restaurant. After an exceptional meal we serenaded guests and staff with a couple of our favorite songs, “Naughty Lady” and “Kokomo.” One of the guests even got to enjoy one of our impromptu quartets singing her name-song, “Caroline.”

BARBERSHOP JAMBOREE

The jamboree on Saturday night closed with an audience of 3,000 joining their harmonic chords in “Keep the Whole World Singing,” the stirring anthem of SPEBSQSA. After 16 hours of music many of us were still not ready to call it a night. We returned to the motel where they joined the Allentown (PA) chapter in an afterglow around the pool. There was food, fun, fellowship, and a lot of ringing chords. On Sunday, when it was time to head home, we were all thinking, “What a time! Let’s do it again next year!”

—Jack Gardner

THE FIRST BARBERSHOP 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 Applesseed 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 50th anniversary of the Society.

COMPUTERS IN HARMONY

What the heck does a barbershop chorus have in common with a computer club?

As it turns out, quite a lot. At the September 14 performance at Voorhees High School for the Macintosh Association of Central New Jersey (MACNJ), both groups found out just how much they had in common.

We sang our two contest songs, "Lovin' My Baby On Line" and "Girl On My Screen," to the delight of the Macintosh computer enthusiasts. At the end of the program, club president David L. Davis announced, "MACNJ considers all the Harmonizers honorary members of our Macintosh Users Group! The performance you gave ... was nothing less than great! We want you to be a permanent part of all our meetings!"

How did these two groups with seemingly nothing in common get together? It started when our VP of

Chapter Development, **Lee Roth**, attended a Mac User Club meeting. He met **Mike Fordice**, a Mac enthusiast who also enjoys performing magic and singing. Lee invited Mike to visit the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*. Mike liked what he heard and joined the chorus.

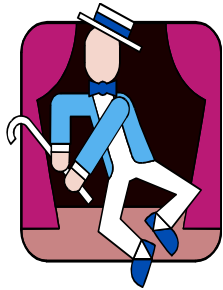
The plot continues... The parodies we've developed for contest and performance were intended to poke fun at the onslaught of computer technology and the ways computers have changed our lives. The up-tune describes the joy (and honesty) of loving online, and the ballad bemoans lost love because the hero has lost her e-mail address. The tale culminates with the terror of ... a real date.

Mike got such a kick out of these tunes that he suggested we perform them for his computer club. All the computer puns interspersed in the songs were a delight to this computer-savvy crowd of fellow nerds! It was a great opportunity for us to showcase the two songs before using them in contest.

—Jack Gardner and Rusty Williams



Could you really love this geek? (or these geeks?)



CRAFT FAIR 2002 A SUCCESS!

Beautiful weather, great music, and fantastic teamwork led to a super-successful event. **Ted McGinnis** did his best to remember all the faces that moved in and out of the workforce, especially our own version of the 3 R's—chairman **Rich Cornelison**, president **Rich Kacvinski**, and assistant director **Rich Taylor** (an embarrassment of Riches...). Set-up and clean-up chores were attacked by **Tony Weber**, **Ed Kunkle**, **Bruce Budde**, **George Schwerdt**, **Frank Scher**, **Charlie Mohr**, **Bob Thomas**, and **Pat Cerillo**. There were more men not mentioned here, for sure, and all the more thanks are due to the unlisted helpers. We had 90 vendors, guys!!

Fellowship did make the Harmony, and our two shows—Saturday and Sunday—were crowd-pleasers. With trepidation, we were armed with flags and hope, and performed the “Cohan Medley” with all the moves (okay, the front row skipped the box step at the end) and did a credible job. It’s amazing what we’re capable of when our heads are in the game. *Voice Activation* and *WOW* added the quartet flavor on Saturday, and a *Harmony Activation Trio* was joined by Joe

Monaghan, a former Harmonizer and quartetter for a pair of Polecat songs on Sunday. *WOW*'s strolling harmony was a great addition to the Saturday package, and a few of the visitors were inquiring about booth space for next year.



WAS IT HARMONY ACTIVATION ... OR WAS IT VOICE SQUARE?

by Rusty Williams

Most of our quartet activity lately is combinations of our chapter foursomes, but we’re not sacrificing any quality! **George Schwerdt**, **Don Reckenbeil**, **Art Cole**, and **Rusty Williams** joined voices to entertain the strolling crowd at the Bloomsbury Arts Festival on September 29. It was a beautiful day for singing, and the shady street was well-populated with vendors and patrons. There’s absolutely no greater thrill than locking some good chords and watching the smiles—and tears—that our music inspires. Our extemporaneous moves were something to see, and we might have snagged a member or show patron, too!!



“Oh Lord, won’t you buy me a color TV ...”



Singing in Tune

by Freddie King, International Coach
 (from Dundalk Md *Charivari*, Tom Wheatley, editor)

CHAPTER VI—EXTERNAL CAUSES OF FLATTING

In prior chapters we mostly addressed internal causes of flattening. There are also a number of external ones that contribute.

Humidity has a depressive effect and will cause the singer to flat because he is emotionally depressed and lacking in vitality.

Poor ventilation, stale air and extreme heat all cause chorus flattening. To counteract, the singer

must use extra vitality. He should select quick moving, cheerful songs in major keys, breathe deeply and maintain an excellent posture. An extra measure of director enthusiasm will help under such conditions.

“Dead” auditoriums cause flattening. This can be overcome by speeding the tempo slightly. In a “live” place, slow it down a little.

Programming two or more numbers in the same or related keys immediately together can cause some degree of tonal deafness, resulting in flattening. Sometimes a slight speeding up of tempo on the slower numbers will eliminate a tendency to go flat.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Jim Knight
- 13 Ed Ringel
- 22 Rich Taylor

Any birthday missed only means you didn't age this year, but get me your DOB and we'll make sure you age next year!

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (continued)

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

Programs:

Meetings

Lou Barile

Refreshments

Clarke Applegate
 Robert Herbstzuber

Membership:

Bulletin Board

Jesse Mazzariello
 Michael Mazzariello

Public Relations

Jack Gardner

Young Men in Harmony

Ron Roth
 Rich Taylor

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Co-Chairpersons

Sharon Cole
 Carol McKeveitt

Treasurer

Linda Kacvinski

Corresponding Secretary

Alice Rigas

Recording Secretary

Linda Williams