



VOLUME 4, Issue 8
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OFFICERS

President

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 Nov 30 Rehearsal | Elks | 9 am-3 pm |
| Wed Dec 4 Lights of Love | Hunterdon Medical Center | |
| Fri Dec 6 Dress Rehearsal | NHRHS | 7-11 pm |
| Sat Dec 7 Annual Holiday Show | NHRHS | 12 noon |
| Sun Dec 8 Christmas Parade | Flemington | TBA |

HOLIDAY HARMONY 2002—THE GREAT SANTA CLAUS KIDNAP CAPER!



Harmonizer Alert! This summarizes the great show we've been working on and this material has been in most of the local papers. Get those ticket orders on your holiday list!!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! And what a great way to begin the holiday season with Santa Claus and his Elves, the Harmonizer kids, and the Harmonizer quartets performing

at our annual Christmas show. It will be magical!

The "Carol of the Bells" will ring up from the valley below at 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday, December 7, at North Hunterdon Regional High School on Route 31 (just south of Route 78).

Under the direction of **Don Reckenbeil**, who makes shows that are fun for all
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SANTA CLAUS KIDNAP CAPER (*continued*)

a specialty, we tell all "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," as we bring out "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman."

Eight of the Harmonizer kids will perform to "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," choreographed by **Vida Allworthy** who is a Flemington dance instructor and choreographer for the Harmonizers.

You will hear seasonal parody words by director **Don Reckenbeil** when *WOW* (the quartet) sings "Christmas Chopsticks." There will be more Christmas parodies by assistant director **Rusty Williams** when a triple quartet sings "It's a Magical World" and *Voice Activation* (a quartet of disgruntled elves) sings "That Old Black Magic." The quartet *Harmony Square* will tell us in song that "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town."

"I'm Gettin' Nothin' for Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland" will delight the kids and bring a healthy dose of Christmas spirit to adults. The audience will

join the singers as they dream of a White Christmas and delight in "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Is it the disgruntled elves or the good elves who represent the spirit of the holiday? Will Santa escape the control of the bad elves who want to kidnap him? Will he be safe to go about his holiday duties? If he is saved, who will be the hero who saves him? Just some of the fun we're going to have with the show this year!

The "Carol of the Bells" (one of the featured songs on the Hunterdon Harmonizers Christmas CD) will be directed by assistant director **Rich Taylor** and there will be some special Harmonizer guest singers. The sets were built by **Ron Roth, Ed Kunkel, Clark Applegate, Charlie Mohr**, and their crew.

Tickets can be ordered by calling 908-806-NOTE (6683). It is first-come-first-served on the reserved tickets. Prices are \$12 for the 2:30 reserved seats and \$7 for general admission. Evening seats at 8 p.m. are \$10 for general admission, \$15 for reserved seats, and \$25 for special patron reserved seats.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Well we just came off a very busy summer and during the month of September we only had one weekend free.

It all started with the Apple Computer Club performance on September 14th, which was outstanding. Then we sponsored the Craft Show on the 21st and 22nd with over 80 crafters and the Harmonizers singing on the Court House steps on both days. We even had quartets going up and down the street! *WOW* did a great job. This does not count all the quartet activity that took place around Hunterdon County during the month. Thanks to all who participated in these activities.

The closing event for the month was the **Conference on Chapter Development 2002** which the Harmonizers hosted and our speaker Andrea Kaiser did an outstanding job. She covered some key areas such as how to develop a board, how to write vision and mission statements, and more. This seminar was

underwritten by a grant from the New Jersey State Arts Council. Those who attended thought it was great. We had 6 other chapters in attendance.

I wish to thank **Lee Roth, Sharon Cole**, and all those who helped in making this event a success.

Be on the look out for new and better things from the Music committee as we revise the taping and contest participation level for the coming year.

Remember to ask "not what your chorus can do for you, but what can you do for your chorus." We need your help in building this chorus to the best it can be. So step up to the plate and assist us by learning your music and put feeling into every performance that you do.

That's it for now.

Chord-ially,

Richard Kacvinski
President, 2002

WOW – SINGING IS FUN!

WOW! It's fun singing in a quartet! Three recent experiences lead me to invite every guy in the chorus to give it a try. Yes, it takes time. Yes, the first time in public is a little scary. But it is worth the effort. No one ever offered me the opportunity to try to sing in a quartet — I talked to a lot of guys until three of them were willing to give it a try with me. Guys you have to ask for the opportunity.

1. *The Craft Fair*

Quartet singing came together for me at the craft fair when **Carmen Olivo**, **Lou Barile**, **Charlie Mohr**, and yours truly, **Lee Roth**, decided to take our show (*WOW*) on the road and present ourselves to a crowd waiting to be entertained. We sang with enough confidence and enthusiasm to get frequent applause. It was a great learning experience performing in front of a very appreciative crowd.

2. *Coaching at the HEP on October 19*

We took the next step to becoming a better barbershop quartet by participating in the Harmony Education Program (HEP) sponsored by the MidAtlantic District in Princeton. Unfortunately, Charlie could not be with us so **Rich Taylor** filled in for him. We started the day with a very experienced tenor who worked with us on the basics. He then took us through warm-ups and gave suggestions on how to present ourselves.

Our second coach was a District-level quartet lead singer from Virginia. He worked on the quality of our singing and our presentation. We all agreed we made real progress under his guidance.

For our third session we had the tenor and baritone from *Wheel House*, the quartet that had just won the District competition. These two young guys were very much in our faces correcting a



number of issues. Breathing was perhaps the most important lesson learned from them.

You get more attention as a quartet than you could possibly get in any other group or configuration at an HEP. I was called on to duet with each of the other parts a number of times. We blocked chords, worked on timing and rhythm, worked on how we sing vowels together, worked on the approach to a quartet rehearsal, and sang through two songs time after time. The four of us came away feeling like we were singing better — and of course that was the goal.

3. *Our First Paid “Sing Out”*

It was only a week later that we had our first paid “sing out” opportunity. We were asked to sing at a Halloween party for about 20 minutes in several rooms of a large house. Our appearance was to be a surprise.

We gathered an hour and a half before the appointed time, warmed up, and sang through the songs we felt would be appropriate for the occasion. Then, we jumped in the car and soon arrived at the front door ready to go. We were greeted by a man in a devil outfit and the hostess. Her husband, who had called us, was soon by her side. We sang to the hostess in the foyer and a crowd gathered. She was thrilled. Our host was pleased, as was the crowd.

We were then ushered through various rooms in the house to sing for a skeleton, Marilyn Monroe, and various other costumed characters. One gentleman identified himself as a bass singer and member of another New Jersey Barbershop chapter. We invited him to fifth-wheel with us and his friends thought it was great.

We were led to another living room where we sang to a younger crowd. We told the group who we were and invited the men to come out on Tuesday nights and sing with us. Several people assured us

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WOW ... (continued)

they would be coming to our Holiday show.

The whole experience was an important confidence builder. The fact that **Rusty Williams**, assistant director, thought we were ready to go out and represent the chapter as a quartet was a real morale booster in itself. We look forward to the continued hard work, coaching, and singing opportunities that come with

quartet singing and plan to sign up for the Westfield novice contest. We want to thank Rusty, Rich, and many others who have spent their time working with us to get our voices around the opportunity to engage in quartet singing. I am sure the experience will improve our chorus singing.

—Lee Roth

COTS 2002

Four Hunterdon Harmonizers set off early on Saturday morning, November 9, for Chapter Officer Training School (COTS) North at Fenwood, in Pennsylvania. **Rich Cornelison**, who is in his second year as a barbershopper and his first year as an officer, was set to take the Treasurer track. A first-year barbershopper and officer, **Barry Leifer**, was set to take the Secretary track. **Rich Taylor**, a 34-year veteran as a barbershopper, past music director of several chapters, past COTS instructor, and one of the best known people found at any gathering of our Barbershop Society leaders, attended a combination of Music & Performance and Youth activity sessions. He also had the opportunity to promote his a capella radio program and the fund-raising effort he is engaged in to keep it broadcasting.

Our fourth representative was yours truly, **Lee Roth**. Since membership is to be our big push for the year 2003 and I am to be the Membership VP, I considered going to the Chapter Development sessions. But I also thought I needed to learn more about the interrelation of the Music program and the Membership program, so I attended five of the eight sessions on Music and Performance. I also fit in one on Development, one on Grants, and finally one on Marketing & Public Relations.

The information presented by Dan Fullerton in the Music & Performance session was very interesting and useful to me. Dan spent most of his barbershop career singing with and helping run the *Masters of Harmony* in California. He has now retired, moved to be near his children who live in Texas, and yes, he is now with the *Vocal Majority*. I took extensive notes, asked a lot of questions, talked with him during breaks about his two chapters, and acquired the SPEBSQSA publication, "*The Music Leadership Team*," for help in designing programs directed to orient and help new people coming into our chapter.

The Development session I attended was probably more useful for officers who have never thought about any of the issues that we have considered for a number of years. The part of the program dealing with "grants" reinforced the fact that we are way ahead of most of the chapters in the District — at least we are way ahead of the chapters that were represented at the session.



Rich Cornelison and **Barry Leifer** have each indicated that their sessions were extremely helpful in orienting them to their new responsibilities. I always pick up something useful when I attend COTS. But perhaps the best reason for going is to pick up the enthusiasm that is part of the process of interacting with other chapter leaders. It's nice to be able to verify that we are truly on track. We are working hard and headed in the right direction. When we are compared with other chapters, and considering how well we are managed, we should be among the ones that a singer wants to be a part of.

As good barbershoppers always do, we sang most of the way home, working on our show music.

—Lee Roth

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO QUALIFIED FOR OUR FOUR TARGETED SHOW SONGS! There was a lot of learning effort evident—words and notes—and our audience will reap the benefits!



CRAFT CORNER

by George Schwerdt, Assistant Director

GRAVITY NEVER RESTS! As our good friend and coach Ron Knickerbocker is fond of reminding us, we need to be constantly aware of gravity's effect on our singing. The plan is simple: Establish a pitch or tonal center, and then stay there by properly executing each and every interval that comes along. No problem !

The pitch – or the key the song is written in – is first provided to us by the pitch pipe. It's critical that we listen to the pipe (and NOT hum or sing) so our brains can register the tone and set what we call the tonal center. With few exceptions, this note is "DO" on the scale and also that note to which we will return at the end of the song. A second or two of intense listening is

required for most of us (and maybe more for others), which is why silence during pitch-taking is so important.

Once we're off and singing, the execution of intervals becomes the primary focus. Gravity is always trying to stop us from stepping up as far as we need to and trying to push us back down further than we want to go. On the up-side, it helps to think in terms of going up a staircase where you raise your foot slightly above the level of the next step and then come down to meet the tread. Likewise when descending, your foot tends to under-step the interval as you gently come down to the next level.

No matter which "step" you're on, the brain should keep its reference to the original pitch, because when all is sung and done, that's the place we want to be.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12 Lou Barile

16..... Lou Bowers

29..... Brian Lipe

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 McKeVitt

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

AUXILIARY

Co-Chairpersons

Sharon Cole
Carol McKeVitt

Treasurer

Linda Kacvinski

Corresponding Secretary

Alice Rigas

Recording Secretary

Linda Williams