



VOLUME 5, Issue 1
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2003 OFFICERS

President

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Murray Natkie
Ron Roth

Director

Don Reckenbeil

HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2003 SCHEDULE

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

Regular scheduled Chapter Rehearsal/Meeting, Tuesdays Elks 7:30 pm

Other Important Dates:

Tues	March 11	Rehearsal Video Taping	Elks	7:30 pm
Sat	March 22	Coaching	TBA	TBA
Tues	March 25	Contest Chorus Selected	Elks	7:30 pm
Sat	April 26	Coaching for Contest Chorus	TBA	TBA
Sat-Sun	May 2-3	Division Contest	Bridgewater	
Mon	May 26	Memorial Day Parade	Flemington	
Fri-Sun	June 12-14	Harmony College East	Salisbury, MD	
Thurs	June 26	County Park Performance	Deer Path Park	TBA
Tues-Sat	July 1-5	International Convention	Monteal, Canada	

Let Me Call You Sweetheart

by Rusty Williams

This readily recognizable standard and the tender "Heart of My Heart" were lavishly distributed around Central New Jersey this Valentine's Day. Twenty-some Hunterdon Harmonizers participated in a 3-day musical marathon, selling smiles to a lot of very receptive valentines. We put in 55 appearances, and left hundreds and hundreds of people warmed with the love that comes with the day and with a different view of the meaning of Barbershop Harmony. Harmonizers ... you done good!!

As in years past, there were some neat stories. Like when **Lee Roth's** team, consisting of Lee, **George Schwerdt**, **Ed Kunkel**, and **Jensen Gelfond**, arrived at



A five-tet (l-r: Charlie, Ed, Tom, Rich, & Carmen), singing a valentine to the pharmacist in High Bridge.

Merck and announced to the gate that they were there to deliver a singing valentine. They were, of course, sent to the receiving dock. It took another quartet two tries to deliver one Lambertville valentine, since her husband wasn't quite brave enough to have us serenade her in the shower on Friday. And responding to a great set-up, we delivered a singing valentine to

LET ME CALL YOU SWEETHEART (continued)

9-month-old Nicole at Sneddens' Luncheonette in Lambertville. The song was, of course, "The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane." It was really great since the crowd could get the jokes (change her, liquid refreshment, etc.) just as they came up in the song. Sneddens on Saturday morning also featured a sextet with four Harmonizers and two opera singers (!) doing "Sunny Side of the Street."

Our smiles covered maybe a few too many miles this year, and **Charlie Mohr**—in his first year as head of Valentine Central—has put together a few suggestions for better booking and scheduling for next year. Special thanks go to **Jack Gardner**, who primed the pump all over the county with great publicity, including a lead article in the Easton Express.

Kudos and thanks to ALL who planned, delivered, and supported the Hunterdon Harmonizers' 2003 singing valentines.

Observation: With the quartets I travelled with, when we did "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" as the first song, we were met with fidgeting and embarrassment. Then, following with "Heart of My Heart," we touched, and tears (sometimes mutual) created the memories.

KNICKERBOCKER KNOCKS SOCKS OFF!!

by Rusty Williams, Assistant Director

Great session on February 22nd!! Our Saturday morning leads were "Aw"-some, the Basses were "Eh"xcellent, and the Baris and Tenors were "Oh" so good. Ron Knickerbocker shifted our conceptual vocal formations from a common "Oh" across the entire chorus to "Aw" in Lead, "Eh" in Bass, while maintaining the "Oh" formation for Tenor and Bari. Our ensemble match was energized and incidentally, we held pitch better than ever before. We revisited the concepts of "stingy down" and "generous up," Bass focus, and the creation of a solid sound allowing the Baritones and Tenors to fill the holes in the chord. Fellows, this is good stuff! Stay Tuned!

Thanks go to Ron for one of our best coaching sessions ever; the *concepts* will make us better singers. We were singing with good support, height, and projection, which enabled Ron & Don to do some really great detailed work with the chorus!



A valentine quartet (l-r: Charlie, Dan, Rich, & Pat) singing a valentine to Daniella at Angelo's Pizzeria.

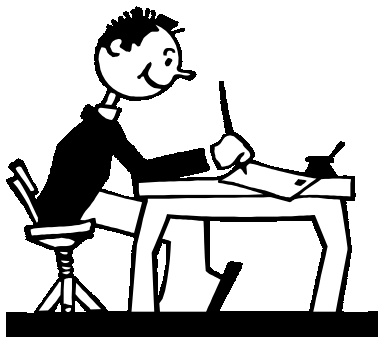
TEN REASONS TO VISIT MONTREAL 2003

by Ed Kunkel, VP Programming

1. Hear the best quartets in the world.
2. Hear the best barbershop choruses in the world.
3. Hear the best chorus of any type in the world—the *Vocal Majority* as they will be eligible to be crowned again.
4. Hear past champions in the separate fee AIC show.
5. Not only hear but also see all of the above.
6. Sing Pole Cats with fellow barbershoppers from all corners of the world.
7. Have dinner with Millie and me—Dutch treat, however.
8. Enjoy two mornings and afternoons (optional) of Montreal's attractions.
9. Enjoy advantages of the Canadian monetary exchange.
10. Enjoy a luxurious ride on the scenic Hudson Valley thruway.

Abbreviated Schedule for July 2-5, 2003:

Wed Quartet sessions 1 and 2, 12:15 and 7:15
Thurs AIC, 7:00
Fri Quartet semifinals, 7:15
Sat Chorus contest, 10:45 - 4:00
Quartet finals, 7:00



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

H-e-l-l-o!!

It's near the end of February and we have just completed all of our Singing Valentines. We had a busy schedule this year with 55 valentines delivered between February 13-15. I would like to thank **Charlie Mohr** and **Jim Knight** for spearheading this committee. It was a huge undertaking and learning curve for them. I would also like to thank **Jack Gardner** for the valentine PR campaign. For ALL those who participated—a job well done. For those who participated for the first time, we hope it was both a fun-filled and educational experience.

“Commitment” is a big word and it's also tough to do. What do I mean by this? In this time of busy-ness with family, work and finally Harmonizer commitments, there should be no question about which should come first. Family must come first, and then business, because that is your livelihood. But then, hopefully, the Harmonizers fall

in there somewhere. We just have to be careful not to over-commit and take on something that we know we can't accomplish. By making a commitment you indicate that you are willing and able to do that particular function. So, before doing that, please check your calendars and your schedules and make sure that all the major Harmonizer activities are marked down so that you do not end up having conflicts. This is important so as not to let down members of a quartet or the chorus that you will be performing with. We will give you as much notice as possible so that you can check your calendars.

This past Saturday, February 22, a coaching retreat was held at the Elk's. Many of you were there. It was a good session.

A request for an operational grant was submitted to the State Art Council this month. This comprised many hours of work ... review ... work ... review ... work ... review ... and was finally approved by the Board. I would like to thank **Lee B. Roth, Jack Gardner, Rich Cornelison, Art Cole,** and **Sharon Cole** (our administrative assistant) for their participation in completing this grant application.

March will be a month of getting our contest package ready and hopefully all will join us at the Division Contest being held in Bridgewater the weekend of May 2-4.

That's it for now.

Chord-ially,
Richard Kacvinski
President 2003

COMMITMENT TO COMPETITION

by Mike Fordice, VP – Music & Performance

The Hunterdon Harmonizers have entered into a new era – an era of commitment. As we plan for the May 2003 Northern Division Contest, each member has been asked to make a commitment towards excellence.

At the February 18 rehearsal, a letter from the Music Team was distributed to all members. In this letter members were asked to agree to several key areas of commitment to be a member of the Competition Chorus for the Northern Division Contest. Those points were:

- Attendance at all Tuesday rehearsals.

- Attendance at all Saturday coaching sessions, currently scheduled for February 22 (with Ron Knickerbocker), March 22 (choreography), and April 19 (with Ron Knickerbocker).
- To be capable of performing both songs with no note or word errors as determined by the musical leadership (demonstrated on a tape recording of my voice singing with the chorus or by singing the songs in a quartet for the musical director and section leaders). Perfection is the standard that the Hunterdon Harmonizers work to achieve.
- Meet visual performance standards, including approval by our choreographer.

(continued on page 4)

COMMITMENT TO COMPETITION (continued)

- I will do everything in my power to elevate my personal performance to meet and exceed the expected level.

With a policy of *inclusion*, the Music Team hopes that each and every member will choose to be in the Competition Chorus. If personal or business reasons cause special problems, members are asked to discuss them with the Music Team (Mike, Don, or your Section Leader) to determine how you can be on the risers for the 2003 Division Contest. Every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of every member.

Let's plan for the very best performance in May!



by Lee B. Roth, VP Membership

We have had 10 guests through the first five weeks of 2003. If we keep this up, with a minimum of 2 guests each week (and hopefully they end up joining and singing with us) we will grow. Here is a little bit about the guys who came to our rehearsals so far this year.

Daniel Mirota came to the first youth event we ran. He is part of a barbershop quartet at college. **Rich Taylor** says he had an excellent voice test and is taking out an application. Dan sings bass.

Bill Lyons is a retired teacher from Flanders. He had read about us in the newspapers and has been coming to our rehearsals regularly, since the beginning of the year. He has passed his tests and is taking out an application. Bill sings lead or barie.

Art Banker comes from Lambertville. He sang when he attended Hunterdon Central HS. Art is married with

family, sings and plays guitar at his church, and sings in an Irish trio. He works for a local oil company. Art came with **James Fee** who is also a member of the same church. By the way, they would like us to put on a couple of performances for their church. Jim says he is not a singer and so he did not sing with us. But Art did sing.

Roger Foster is the former director of Bucks. He says he is not a riser guy but he had heard our radio program from WDVR and wondered what our director situation was. I don't think he is likely to come back.

Carl Gilford is the Johnny Cash impersonator who sang with us on the Holiday Show. **Art Cole** and **Rich Taylor** are working with him to measure his being a member or not.

Owen Jacobus is a 16-year-old home-schooled lad from Lebanon. He says he learned about us through the photos in the newspapers promoting our Holiday Show and recognized one of the young men singing with us who goes to the same church he does. Owen seems to be interested in joining.

Bob Daniels is a security guard, sings in his church choir, has community theater experience, and works as a volunteer at WDVR. He lives in Nazareth, PA. Bob also plays the keyboard and accordion. He has visited two times so far this year.

Tim McKenzie came up from Lambertville where he is a landscape designer, plays guitar, and is studying to be an interfaith minister.

Richard Dopico lives on Cider Mill Road in Flemington. **Pat Cerillo** is his lawyer. Rich is retired, has a girlfriend who sings, but says he "is not really" a singer. He did not sing with us, just listened, but he said he'll be back.

The real membership effort starts now that the Singing Valentines project is over.



CRAFT CORNER

by George Schwerdt, Assistant Director

Chord Balance. In addition to being on pitch and having the same vowel sound, the four parts of a barbershop chord need to be **balanced** to produce the desired “ring”. That is, certain parts of the chord need to predominate, while others need to be blended.

Chords that we tend to hold for a while are almost always tonics [Root, Third, Fifth, and usually another Root] or sevenths [Root, Third, Fifth, Seventh]. The basic principle is that if you have the root or the fifth, you need to “BE THERE”. Whereas, if you have the third or seventh, you need to blend more. “High and

light” with the third, and somewhat less strong with the seventh.

Let’s look at an example. In the first line of All Dressed Up... .. “can’t we be sweethearts again?”, there are two chords on the word aGAIN. The first is a tonic (C-Major), the second is an A seventh. Bases have the **Root** of both. Be there and STAY there, bases! Baris have a **Root to Third** move meaning that they need to back off as the chord changes. The Leads’ note changes from the **Fifth** to the **Seventh** of the chord so they also need to back off a bit. Finally, the Tenors’ note changes from the **Third** to the **Fifth** so they need to *strengthen* their sound as the chord changes. Note that neither leads nor tenors actually change pitch. What’s needed is just a little bit of re-balancing. And that’s just one syllable of the song! Now think about what it takes to get the whole song done in “A” Chorus precision!

NO FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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 CHAIRS

Music:

Assistant Directors
Rich Taylor
Rusty Williams
George Schwerdt

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
Ron Knickerbocker

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 Mohr

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
Vacant

CD’s
Richard Kacvinski
Ron Roth

Cups, etc.
Dennis McKeVitt

Programs:

Meetings
Ed Kunkle

Refreshments

Clarke Applegate
Robert Herbstzuber

Membership:

Public Relations
Jack Gardner

Young Men in Harmony
Ron Roth
Rich Taylor

LADIES AUXILIARY

Co-Chairpersons
Sharon Cole
Carol McKeVitt

Treasurer
Linda Kacvinski

Corresponding Secretary
Alice Rigas

Recording Secretary
Linda Williams