



VOLUME 5, Issue 3
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2003 OFFICERS

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Administrative Assistant

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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:

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	
Sat	May 17	CD Recording Session (?)	TBA	
Sat	May 17	Concert Performance	Lambertville	TBA
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	Montreal, Canada	
Sun	Aug 10	2nd Annual Barbershop Ball Game	Somerset	
Sun	Aug 24	Annual Harmonizer Picnic	Deer Path Park	

Young Men in Harmony

by Rich Taylor, Musical Sponsor and Coach of *Scarred for Life*

Scarred for Life, Hunterdon's own Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) quartet has been on the move for about three months preparing for and participating in the Youth Adjudication sponsored by the Mid Atlantic District Young Men In Harmony Program.

Each year, the YMIH folks offer a program where young quartets, both male and female, can perform for an audience and be scored by certified judges. There is no contest, just an evaluation where the participants are given their scores, which translate into a rating of GOOD, EXCELLENT, or OUTSTANDING. Each group gets to spend about 15 minutes with each judge and benefit from mini-coaching sessions that help them improve.

There were two adjudication events scheduled this year. The first was in

Lansdale, PA, on January 18. Our guys were not able to attend that session because of a scheduling conflict. The second adjudication was held in Gaithersburg, MD, on February 1. Our young men, accompanied by yours truly as their Music Sponsor, left in the early hours of Saturday (the day of the event) and arrived just in time to dress and get to the stage as the second performing group that day. *Scarred for Life* had chosen two new songs, "Coney Island Baby/We All Fall" medley, and our own "All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart," just three weeks earlier and were a little worried that they would be able to present the two songs with the kind of performance skills that they strive for. They came on the stage and did an admirable job. They had some performance errors but they were pleased that they made it through the songs and

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YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY (continued)

felt that they did the best they could. So did I. The afternoon session ended and the evaluation levels were announced. *Scarred for Life* had earned a GOOD rating in their first contest situation ever! We were all thrilled! The quartet received certificates for participating, a plaque to keep for their participation, and a check for \$75.00 to go toward their music program.

One week after their adjudication, Mike Fasano, the Mid Atlantic District YMIH Chairman called me at my house. He wanted to congratulate the quartet for their participation and he informed me that the score that *Scarred for Life* had earned was indeed, in the GOOD range, however, the score was only 1 point away from an EXCELLENT. Mike continued to say he was impressed with *Scarred for Life*, and he and Gary Plaag, the Society's YMIH Chairman had decided to invite the quartet to the District YMIH Adjudication at the MAD International Prelim Convention in Cherry Hill on March 8. The guys were excited and began to plan their work for the next level. They knew that Mike and Gary had gone out on a limb to invite them and they were determined to make their decision the right one.

We knew that the weakest category was the Presentation category. We also knew that the performance errors and the errors in tuning had to be fixed before the next round. The quartet agreed that we would have four to five sessions over a three-week period, and that some of those sessions would have to be 3-4 hour sessions by necessity. We looked at the calendar and found the necessary time slots. Then we sat down and decided that we needed professional help in the Presentation area. We contacted Alden Fulcomer, a former Harmonizer and currently a professional actor and singer. Alden agreed to meet and coach *Scarred for Life*. In his first session, that ran more than 4 hours, Alden recreated the scenario for "All Dressed Up" to bring the message of the song down to a teenager's level of life experience. The up-tempo and the ballad were dissected musically and the tuning issues were resolved. The last thing we needed was to

put together a choreography presentation for the up-tempo. Alden and I created some interesting visual things for the "Coney Island" medley and, much to our pleasure, the quartet brought forth ideas that made the package even more entertaining. We were ready to rehearse the new package and get it ready for the adjudication. Three more sessions took place with the quartet remarkably focused on the task at hand... never failing to do the things that Alden and I wanted them to do. Unison singing, dueting, silent singing, video camera feedback and blocking chords were all techniques we used to polish the pieces. The time was at hand to present what was developed.



The District Adjudication was held in conjunction with the International Preliminary Quartet Contest and Convention where the District chooses the quartets that will represent the District in July at the International Contest in Montreal. There were 40 quartets registered to compete, all striving to reach the elusive average

of 76.0 points per song per judge. There were two sessions of semifinal rounds, one on Friday night and one on Saturday morning. *Scarred for Life* sat and listened to every quartet in the competition, wanting to learn what "Good" really was, and to see how their performance ranked with what they saw. Over the course of the 40 competitors, the quartet saw "Great" singing and they also saw not-so-great singing, but they learned something from each competitor. It was now time on Saturday afternoon for them to show their stuff.

The District YMIH Adjudication began at 1:30 p.m. with 14 quartets crossing the stage. Remember, *Scarred for Life* had not technically won the right to be here. And, indeed, people filed two complaints regarding the quartet's participation in the event. But Mike Fasano stood by their decision, and the quartet came through with flying colors. They bounded on the stage as the 8th quartet and performed their set, with all the new choreography and presence they had practiced. The songs were in tune, sung with energy, and had the facial and body energy that was lacking in the previous sessions. When the results were announced, *Scarred for*

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YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY (continued)

Life earned an EXCELLENT rating and actually finished in the middle of the competitors, a huge improvement on their initial performance. Mike Fasano and Gary Plaag were excited, and the audience showed the quartet that they had done an excellent job. Just as a note, the scores that *Scarred for Life* received (from Certified Society Judges), an average of 56.2, would have placed them ahead of 12 quartets that competed in the Prelim Contest. This was a remarkable improvement by these young men. Their rating garnered the quartet another plaque, participation certificates, and \$100.00 toward their music program. In addition, *Scarred for Life* and their coach (me) will receive a full scholarship to Harmony College East in June.

The weekend ended at 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning after the quartet had sung in four hospitality rooms throughout the hotel and after they sang in an Octet with *Wheelhouse*, the current Mid Atlantic District Champions. *Scarred for Life* held their own when they sang "Sittin' On Top of the World" with *Wheelhouse*. I cannot tell you how proud Alden and I were of the young men in *Scarred for Life*. **Murray Natke, Jesse Mazzariello, Jensen Gelfond and Michael Mazzariello** have brought new life to the Harmonizers. Their work ethic in rehearsal and their own personal musical standards they have set for themselves, as performers are something that we all can be proud of. Thank you, *Scarred for Life*...you have represented the chapter well!



BARBER 'SHOPPING' IN THE BAY AREA

by Jack Gardner

No, not *that* Bay Area ... the Bay Area that *won* the Super Bowl! Things are done a little differently here, and it takes some getting used to. Churches are LARGE ... and so are pick-up trucks and guns. Grits and gravy are two major food groups. Dinnertime is at 4:30, and bedtime is at 9 p.m. But barbershopping is the same all over, right? Wrong.

Come Tuesday night, I needed a barbershop fix, so I went shopping for a barbershop chapter. There are

several to choose from. I started with a chapter about a half-hour away with a membership of 100 and an average age of 74.

The Think Method

I was welcomed as a visitor, but had to ask for a guest songbook. It had lots of neat arrangements in it; unfortunately none of them were sung that night. I hoped to spend some time singing on the risers, but there were no risers. Most of the rehearsal was spent sitting down. Then it was time to break for sectionals. The basses sat classroom style, with the section leader up front. He pointed out the mistakes he had heard during rehearsal, and told the class where to find them and how to correct them. Then he asked the class where they had problems, and he told them how to sing those parts correctly.

Towards the end of the 20 minute session, someone asked if they could actually practice singing these parts. They were told that this wouldn't work, since there were no leads there to sing with. Suddenly, I recognized the teaching technique. It was pioneered by Professor Harold Hill in the *Music Man* ... The Think Method!

The Un-Performing Chorus

Maybe my barbershopping experience would be enhanced by going to a chapter show. For several weeks, *An Evening of Barbershop Harmony* had been advertised for President's Day. Two performances (afternoon and evening) with two choruses (Barbershop & Sweet Adelines). We rushed to make the 7 p.m. starting time. In the first half we heard a good male quartet with a slightly nasal lead and an excellent female quartet with an overpowering lead. Good show so far. The second half was a set of 8 patriotic tunes and love songs by the Sweet Adeline Chapter. Then the show was over.

The good part was that we were home before 9 p.m.

Everyone who came to hear the local barbershop chorus left with puzzled looks on their faces. I asked the show producer, a member of the Lions Club, what happened to the guys. He seemed as puzzled as everyone. His story was that the two choruses had decided the day before that one would sing in the afternoon, and the other at night. The guys won the day gig. They also won the award as the area's best un-performing chorus!

Tampa Bay Barbershopping improves in the next In Tune ...

njharmonizers.org

by Mike Fordice, Music VP, Webmaster

Have you visited our web site recently? Give it a try. You'll find it at njharmonizers.org. I thought I'd provide a brief history (very brief) of the site. My history with the site begins in June 2002, as Warren (our previous webmaster) was about to depart to the South. President Rich Kacvinski asked me if I would take over the site – and I agreed to do so.

What you see on the site today remains a mix of what Warren created and changes I have made to the site. One important addition is a button (up top lower right) for "Site News". This is a running commentary of changes made to the site. Visit this first when you enter the site and you'll be directed to the latest, greatest things you have not yet seen.

Thanks to our active chorus photographers (Lee Roth, Chris & Mike Fordice) we have a wonderful and growing collection of photos from our activities on the site. Most recent photo albums include the holiday show, the installation banquet, and singing valentines. And, coming soon (we know you can't wait for this one) photos from the March 17 board meeting! *Zzzzzzzz...*

We also have a "members only" portion of the site. To gain entrance to this area, a password is required. If you need the password, either ask me at rehearsal or drop me an email (mike4dice@alum.mit.edu). I recently added an interesting document to the members-only section dealing with personal security. It is worth a look – contains several things I had never considered.

Other sections of the web site worth note (I couldn't resist!) include Events and Links. The Events button will take you to a calendar of upcoming events. This is a fairly up-to-date listing of what's coming up in the future for the chorus. And...it can change on a fairly regular basis, so you'll want to check this out routinely.

The Links button takes you to a listing of other barbershop-oriented sites on the internet. There you'll find a link for The Society (www.spebsqsa.org) – much easier than typing that darn thing out! The Society web site was completely redesigned over the past year and looks good. There is a wealth of information on the site including free music (sing & perform/get music/free & easy music & tags). There is also a "members only" area.

Another link takes you to the Mid-Atlantic District web site (www.harmonize.com/mad/). Very recently this site was completely redesigned and is a major

improvement over the previous version. Visit this site for more local happenings.

Finally, I recently learned of "The Ultimate in Barbershop Links" web site (www.harmonize.ws/links). This site contains nearly 1,500 barbershop links and is amazing. You'll never know what you'll find next on this site.

AND THE STARTING LINE-UP IS...?

by Rusty Williams, Assistant Director

Everybody was on the same page for Saturday #2 of our Contest Preparation Package. Our ballad is really coming together, and I believe we can deliver the best ballad performance in the contest if we grab the message, support it with air and space, and give it the facial credibility and support we're really capable of delivering.

The up-song needs work, guys! We've got to get the notes and words behind us so we can accelerate the delivery!! We need to be excited about our "beautiful doll" without any execution worries that impede our presentation moves. Simply put—if we're worried about notes, words, and moves, it will show. Homework is needed and after that we can revel in a

FUN!

FUN!!

FUN!!!

Hunterdon Harmonizers' Performance!!





CRAFT CORNER

by George Schwerdt, Assistant Director

Vocal production is as much a psychological process as it is physical. In addition to maintaining a good singing posture, breathing properly, relaxing the jaw, loosening the facial muscles, etc, we need to be mentally ready to produce quality sound. The human voice is amazingly flexible in the variations of tone quality that it can produce – everything from the nasal “Jerry Lewis” sound to the warmest of “I love you”. Tones express moods that must be consistent with the words of the song. Your vocal tone naturally responds to your mental state. That is, the idea in your head has much to do with what is coming out of your mouth. That’s why the more you think about what you’re singing in terms of “feeling

it”, the more appropriate your vocal tone will be and the more believable your performance. It’s not until the notes and words are on “auto-pilot” that you can get into the real spirit of a song – especially a ballad. That’s why it’s so important to get the basics out of the way as soon as possible.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 4.....	Don Reckenbeil
March 16.....	George Schwerdt
March 22.....	Bob Thomas
March 29.....	Bob Denlinger
April 8.....	Ed Kunkel

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