



VOLUME 5, Issue 5  
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### 2003 OFFICERS

*President*

Richard Kacvinski

*Past President*

Richard Taylor

*Exec VP Chapter*

*Development*

Art Cole

*VP Marketing*

Jack Gardner

*VP Membership*

Lee B. Roth

*VP Music & Performances*

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Chris Fordice  
Charlie Mohr  
Tom Moriano  
Murray Natkie  
Ron Roth

*Director*

Don Reckenbeil

*Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Cole

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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**  
165 Highway 31, Flemington

### Other Important Dates:

Mon	May 26	Memorial Day Parade	Flemington
Fri	June 6	Relay for Life	NHRHS TBA
Fri-Sun	June 12-14	Harmony College East	Salisbury, MD
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>June 26</b>	<b>County Park Performance</b>	<b>Deer Path Park TBA</b>
Tues-Sat	July 1-5	International Convention	Montreal, PQ, Canada
Sun	July 27	Heath Village Performance	Hacketstown TBA
Sun	Aug 10	2nd Annual Barbershop Ball Game	Somerset
Sun	Aug 24	Annual Harmonizer Picnic	Deer Path Park

## 2003 MID-ATLANTIC NORTHERN DIVISION CONTEST RESULTS

by Don Reckenbeil, Director

It's not practice that makes perfect, it's *perfect* practice makes perfect. And the results of the Division Contest prove that the Harmonizers achieved our goal of showing significant improvement in our singing. What a thrill it was delivering an energetic and exciting performance to an extremely appreciative crowd—including the judges. Over and over again we heard the simple refrain (also embodied by one of our very own quartets), "Wow!" And then, "Fantastic!" and, "So what did you do?"

What we did was take a more disciplined approach to our contest preparations. The regular sessions with our coach, Ron Knickerbocker, helped lay the foundation for serious and constant improvement, not just in our contest vehicles, but spread throughout our general repertoire as well. We then asked our

membership to "self-select" into the contest cycle and thus the music team's expectations were known up front. We also strove for perfect notes and words to encourage cleaner singing, and the proof is in the scores.

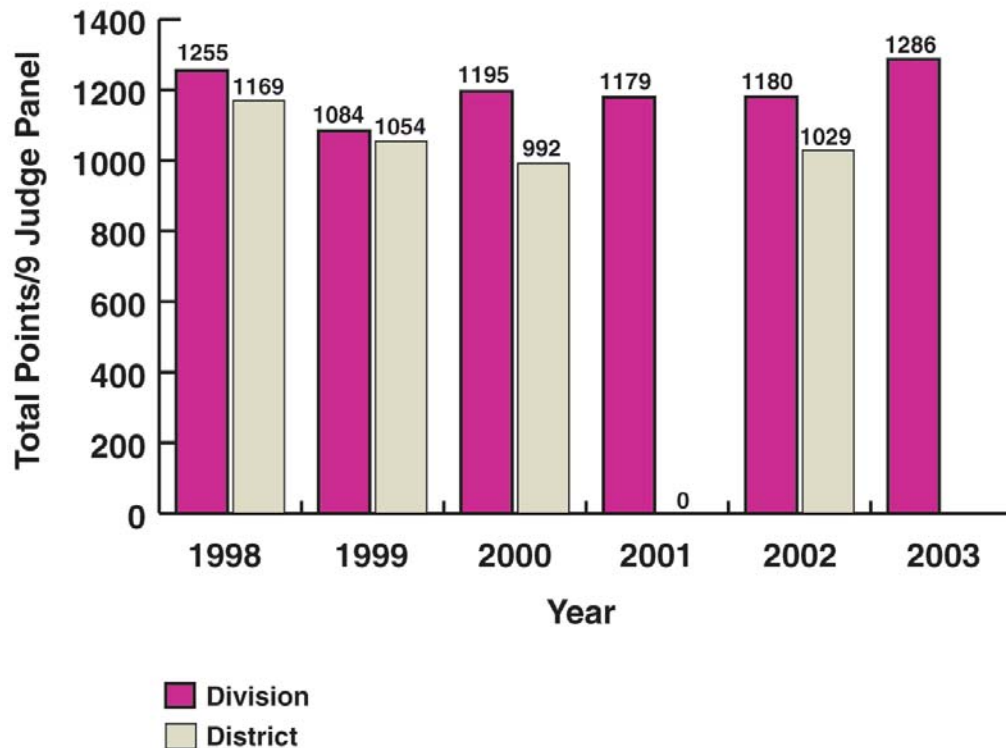
It took a while for the magnitude of our "victory" to really sink in. Wow! 1286 points! That sounds pretty good! But just how does that compare to our recent past performances? Well, as you can see from the charts on page 2, this is our *best score* since the year 1997—the year we went to the Internationals in Indianapolis!!

Where do we go from here? Simply, we must maintain our gains. Continue to apply excellence in what we do, and we will continue to be rewarded. Congratulations guys! The hard work is paying off!

**SCORES—HUNTERDON HARMONIZERS**

Year	Division	Div Rank	Songs	District	Dist Rank	Songs
1997	bye			1358	7	Gone Lucky Day Medley
1998	1255	3	If You Were the Only Girl Sugar Walks Down the St.	1169	15	If You Were the Only Girl Sugar Walks Down the St.
1999	1084	4	Takin' a Chance on Love Pal of My Cradle Days	1054	22	Pal of My Cradle Days Takin' a Chance on Love
2000	1195	4	Pal of My Cradle Days Barbershop Strut	992	23	Pal of My Cradle Days Barbershop Strut
2001	1179	5	Lovin' My Baby Online Phone Medley	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	1180	5	Lovin' My Baby Online Girl on My Screen	1029	21	Lovin' My Baby Online Girl on My Screen
2003	1286	3	All Dressed Up Broken Hrt Oh, You Beautiful Doll			

**HH - Contest Scores 1998-2003**



## HARMONIZERS TO PRAISE LIFE WITH CANCER SURVIVORS THROUGH SONG

by Ed Kunkel, VP Programming

Nobody knows the value of music—especially vocal music—more than Jim Knight’s family. On March 1, the Harmonizers had the honor of participating in the celebration of the life of Mary Knight, Jim’s wife. Mary was a victim of cancer after a long battle during which she remained her usual upbeat self and supporter of Jim’s interest in barbershopping. Music sung at her Mass and at the reception truly reflected the love that was shared and appreciated by the entire Knight family.

On June 6, the Harmonizers will again have the opportunity to celebrate life—this time with the cancer survivors who will assemble at the North Hunterdon High School athletic field in Annandale for the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life. We will sing two songs for the survivors following their dinner. Shortly after this we will present a program for the entire assemblage on the football field. The exact times for these performances will be announced after the program has been confirmed.

Mark your calendars—June 6—this is a golden opportunity to help celebrate life: we’ll sing and all who are supporting cancer research and celebrating life may walk in the Relay for Life. Remembering Mary Knight will be part of this evening for all of us. Our contribution of a small amount of time will be valued by many people touched by this terrible disease. Hundreds of people will be present to share in this expression of love and compassion. Performance times will be announced soon.

Relay For Life is an event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people take turns walking or running laps around the NHRHS athletic field. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day, cancer will be eliminated.

One of the most inspirational moments at the American Cancer Society Relay For Life is the Luminaria Ceremony. Held after dusk, it pays tribute to the courageous men, women, and children whose lives have been touched by cancer. Purchasing a Luminaria is an opportunity to help in the fight against cancer with a donation and to honor someone in your life who has faced this disease.

What is a Luminaria? A Luminaria is simply a bag filled with sand and a small candle that makes it glow. Each Luminaria bears the name of a person who has battled cancer. Right before the Luminaria Ceremony, all the candles are lit. As they burn into the night, they light the way for the walkers. They offer a path of hope.

## CARE CENTER EVENT—WARMING HEARTS AND SHARING MEMORIES



Photo by Lee Roth

Top to bottom: Lee, Art, Rusty, Joe, George, Carmen, Chris and Don, singing an old favorite for a 30-year barbershop veteran.

by Art Cole, Executive VP Chapter Development

On Tuesday, May 13, the Harmonizers were invited to sing at the Hunterdon Care Center. We were prepared to entertain the patients and their staff, but we were not prepared for the heart-warming experience we had just prior to entertaining the large assembly.

We were informed that one of the patients would not be able to make the concert due to his ill health. But, we were told, he was a 30-year barbershop veteran! Surely one of us would know him. “What’s his name?”, we wondered. Then, upon entering his room, Art noticed the name on the door—**Joe Jarrsdorffer!** “Hey, I know him. We sang together in the former *Jersey Gents Chorus*, from the old Muscanetkong Chapter!!” “Joe—I sang with you from 1978 to 1984. Do you remember me, **Art Cole?**” Joe’s eyes immediately brightened and soon filled with tears as Art shared that he remembered Joe’s comedy in the *Saints and Sinners* quartet. Art continued to reminisce, “I especially remember your comedy gig, Joe, when you took that brown paper bag containing a pigeon, then smacked the bag, spewing feathers all over the stage!!”

The seven Harmonizers serenaded Joe with “Wrote ‘em in the Good Old Days,” challenging him in the usual fashion to count the song titles. Joe knew every one of them. Then Joe completed the octet as he joined the HH on tenor for “My Wild Irish Rose.” What joy was exchanged in that room that night!

The group then sang a complete set for those assembled in the main dining room. At the end, one woman approached Art saying, “Too bad my husband was not able to hear you sing. He is a 30-year barbershopper, you know.” “What is your husband’s name, we asked?” She said fondly, “**Joe Jarrsdorffer!**” This time, it was the Harmonizers’ turn to have tears in their eyes.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hel-loo,

Well, we made it through the division contest and everyone did a fantastic job! Congratulations on a job well done. I could not be prouder than a peacock strutting his feathers. With a score of 1286, we are pretty certain that we will be going to the district contest this fall. It's because of your hard work and dedication that we are doing so well.

With the division contest behind us, we now have a very busy schedule ahead of us. We just had the Lambertville performance on May 17 and are looking forward to the Memorial Day Parade to finish up the month of May. But don't forget, in June there is no time off. We have the American Cancer Society Relay For Life on Friday, June 6. Then Harmony College East on June 13-14, in Salisbury, Maryland, and to end the month of June, we will have the opening of the *Deer Path Concert Under the Stars*, Thursday, June 27.

I would like to thank all of the chairmen of the various event committees. They make sure that the chorus is kept informed as to what uniforms to wear and what time and place to meet. It takes many hours to prepare and ensure that we are all in our proper places at the proper time. I would like to thank the music team and our directors for their guidance on keeping us focused on our musical course. I am fully aware of the time they spend planning and preparing for each activity and seeing to it that we have the right mix and that quartets are available to participate in these performances.

With summer coming up shortly, we still need to keep our music abilities at a high level. According to our chairman, **Jack Gardner**, we have church performances scheduled, so all volunteers need to make sure they sign up for this program. For all those who have not yet been informed, **Ron Newsom** will be chairing the holiday show for 2003 with his two assistants, **Art Cole** and **Ron Roth**. Thank you gentlemen. I know it will be a successful show.

That's all for now. Let's keep up the good work!

Rich Kacvinski  
President

## MUSIC VP TALKS ABOUT COMMITMENT + GOOD COACHING = BEST PERFORMANCE RESULTS

by Mike Fordice, Music VP & Webmaster

In the February issue I talked about our "Commitment to Competition" ending with, "Let's plan for the very best performance in May!"

Well, the May Northern Division Contest has come and gone, and as I said in the agenda for a recent Music Team meeting, "We done good! Very good!" Our performance is something in which we can all take pride. We set a new goal for ourselves last October when all three judges in Wildwood told us to improve our singing. So, we committed our personal efforts to the chorus and to the contest. We also had some excellent coaching and direction from **Don**, **George**, **Rich**, and **Rusty**. "We done good!"

What is already evident is that the preparation work for the May contest is influencing our performance of other songs. When we sang in Lambertville on May 17, our "geek package" sounded better than ever. Every singer took the learning from this year's package and applied it! Good improved sounds were heard in many of the songs.

We have established for ourselves a new baseline. Let's all make sure that every aspect of our singing and performance continues to improve.

It is inevitable that some of us will play with the scores and compare and compare and compare. I'm no exception! **Don** tells you in another article that the May score was our best in several years!

A few wondered why we weren't named the "Most Improved Chorus." That honor went to *The Harbormen*, North Brookhaven, New York. They improved their score from 51.7 (2002) to 59.9 (2003). This was an increase of 15.9%. Congratulations to *The Harbormen*! Our score moved from 65.6 (2002) to 71.4 (2003), an increase of 8.8%. With a score of 71.4, we broke the "70 level" moving into a "B" ranking. Again, setting a new baseline.

And here's a really dangerous analysis. If you were to take our May score and plug it back into last October's district contest, we would have placed ninth overall. Wouldn't that be wonderful! Another goal.

Speaking of dangerous, I'll remind you what Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) once said: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."



## njharmonizers.org

by Mike Fordice, Music VP & Webmaster

In the March 2003 issue I told you about the recent history of our website, the recently updated district site, and a few other web-related items.

Today, just a brief note about a site I recently came across, [www.theafterglowlounge.com](http://www.theafterglowlounge.com). Check out the link on our site. You'll find a lot of barbershop artwork in the lounge—things to put on your desktop, logo, etc. You'll also find tags—both the music and a MIDI file playing the tag for you (no voices, just the notes). The site is definitely worth a visit.

## DID YOU KNOW? . . .

Among the many devotees of barbershop harmony are some figures who are (or used to be) household names in America. The following is just a sample of some of the men who have included the barbershop style of music in their lives.

Harry S. Truman, U.S. President

Bing Crosby, singer, actor, and former SPEBSQSA board member

Irving Berlin, composer of "God Bless America" and hundreds of hits, and honorary member of SPEBSQSA

The Osmond Brothers, preteen quartet, later pop music stars, and honorary members of SPEBSQSA

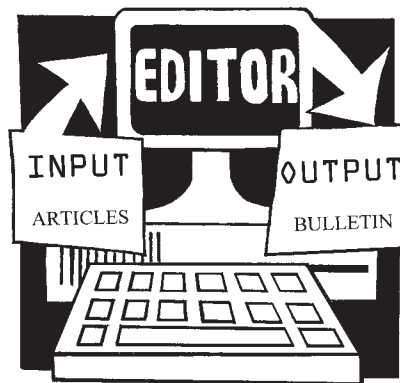
Burl Ives, folk singer, actor, and Oscar winner

Gordon Lightfoot, pop singer, composer of "Sundown" and "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald"



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 29 .....	Bob Herbstzuber
June 4 .....	Art Cole
June 7 .....	David Stadtmauer
June 9 .....	Don Perry
June 14 .....	Don Szurley



### 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

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*Public Relations*  
Jack Gardner

*Young Men in Harmony*  
Ron Roth  
Rich Taylor

#### LADIES AUXILIARY

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Sharon Cole  
Carol McKeVitt

*Treasurer*  
Linda Kacvinski

*Corresponding Secretary*  
Alice Rigas

*Recording Secretary*  
Linda Williams