



# In Tune



with the

# HUNTERDON Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus



Mid-Atlantic District, Hunterdon Chapter

Flemington, NJ

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Charlie Mohr  
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Murray Natkie

*Director*

Don Reckenbeil

*Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Cole

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Music:**

*Assistant Directors*

Rusty Williams  
George Schwerdt

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## ♪ HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2004 SCHEDULE ♪

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

**Regular scheduled Chapter Rehearsal/Meeting, Tuesdays, at the Elks**

165 Highway 31, Flemington, NJ

7:30 p.m.

**Next Music Team meeting at Don Reckenbeil's house, TBA**

8:00 p.m.

**3rd Monday of each month, Board Meeting at Lee Roth's office**

91 Main Street, Flemington, NJ

**Other Important Dates:**

|      |        |                                 |                      |                   |
|------|--------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Fri  | Oct 22 | Brightside Benefit              | Copper Hill CC       | Cancelled         |
| Sat  | Oct 23 | Rehearsal for Holiday Show      | Elks                 | 8:45 a.m. – noon  |
| Mon  | Nov 1  | AARP performance                | Phillipsburg         | 12:30 p.m.        |
| Tues | Nov 2  | Ron Knickerbocker               | Elks                 | 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. |
| Sat  | Nov 20 | Rehearsal for Holiday Show      | TBA                  | 8:45 a.m. – noon  |
| Weds | Dec 1  | Lights of Love                  | HMC                  | TBA               |
| Fri  | Dec 3  | Dress rehearsal                 | Hunterdon Central HS | TBA               |
| Sat  | Dec 4  | Annual Holiday Show             | HCHS                 | 2 & 7:30 p.m.     |
| Sat  | Dec 11 | Holiday Show                    | Lambertville Church  | TBA               |
| Tues | Dec 21 | Ward Singing                    | HMC                  | TBA               |
| Sat  | Jan 29 | Installation Dinner (tentative) | TBA                  | TBA               |

## SIZE DOES MATTER: JUDGING IT BY THE NUMBERS

by Jack Gardner, VP Public Relations

As with many things in life, the size of a barbershop chorus *does* matter ... especially when it comes to contest scoring. In the '04 MAD contest, the top three choruses averaged 83 men on stage and were awarded an average score of 84. The bottom three choruses averaged 18 men on stage and averaged a score of 55.

In between, there were ten choruses with 25 to 40 men who managed a 62 average score. (The HH ranked near the top of this group.) If you want to score better, grow bigger. It's another reason why *Increasing Membership* should remain a top priority for the HH.

It's easy to pick the two top choruses in the MAD, and their top scores reflect it.

But how could Alexandria only get a score of 88 out of 100? How could they possibly add 12 points to that performance?

The next eight choruses scored over 70. This is the group the HH planned to be placed.

On average, this middle group had 47 men on



PHOTO BY LINDA WILLIAMS

stage; HH had 35. To move into the top ten in '05, it would make sense to add another dozen guys to our group on the risers.

Rounding out the Top Twenty were 10 choruses who scored between 60 and 70. Average was 35 on the risers. HH had 35 on stage, scoring in the middle of that group.

The HH also ranked in the middle of the NJ choruses (third out of five), and middle of the Intermediate choruses (fifth out of nine). That makes

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Art Cole, Jr.

## OUR NEXT CONTEST

Just a short message this month to my fellow Barbershoppers who shared the stage with me in Wildwood.

Was it disappointing where we placed in contest? Well, yes to a small degree. The great news is we can change the outcome for *next* year. We don't have to sit and hang our heads because we didn't finish where we wanted to. Do you realize that we were probably one of the few choruses who had almost a third of our singers on a District stage for the first time? We need to continue to grow this chorus with new members so that when next year's Division contest comes around, we will have even more new singers in this chorus.

Next year's rules to qualify for the District contest have changed. Only choruses scoring at a B-level will be able to compete in District. That means that any chorus singing at 63 or better will be on the District stage. This is the level we have been singing at for sometime. What we need to do is not be at the *lower* end of the scale. Do we need to make changes within the chorus? Well, yes. Has the music team started to take steps in that direction? Well, yes. Can we grow as a chorus? Well, yes. Are we growing as a chorus? Well, yes. See, you're starting to see exactly what I want you to see.

On another note, do you realize the benefits that you can get from this weekly activity called Barbershop? We can come here and during the time we are singing, forget about the things that weigh us down! They say that exercise and singing are the best things to relieve stress. Guess what? You are half-way there. Now if you're having trouble getting in your exercise, you can even help set up risers and chairs. Do you see the benefits to coming to practice every Tuesday night? Now, let's get back to the business of good singing, learning our music, and having fun at what we enjoy doing week after week.

Isn't great to be a *Harmonizer*, especially in Hunterdon County? Well, yes! 🎵



PHOTO BY LEE ROTH

## UNTAMED AT CHAMBER EXPO

by Lee Roth, VP Music and Programming

The *Hunterdon Harmonizers* were well represented by *Untamed* at the Chamber of Commerce Expo Thursday, October 14. **Jim Maitland, Pat Cerillo, Art Cole, and Rich Cronce** gave the assembled crowd three well delivered songs from the microphone, on the balcony, overlooking the large crowd. Later, they joined the vendors, the people with booths, and the visitors on the floor. Singing continued as they traveled among all the people performing for pretty ladies of all ages while Holiday Show cards were passed out and men were invited to join in the fun.

Before the day was over 12 booth owners received background material about the *Harmonizers* and the advertising form, plus a show poster card. At least 16 salespersons or marketing representatives of banks, title companies, and other sales intensive organizations were given the pitch suggesting they buy a number of show tickets to give to their best prospects. Names and business cards were collected and follow-up letters will be sent.

Although the *Harmonizers* did not have a booth of their own, for the first time in a number of years the event was worked to recruit singers and sell program advertising and show tickets. 🎵



PHOTO BY BILL HALLER

*Untamed* performed for the Bloomsbury Craft Fair.

## RAMBLIN' THRU THE WILDWOODS

by Jack Gardner, VP Public Relations

Why do the *Harmonizers* go to District Contest? There's the obvious reason: to compete and to see how we match up with other choruses in the MAD. The obvious gets covered in other articles. This one is about the total experience of the "Wildwood Weekend."

**Harmonizers are Prepped and Pumped.** There's a lot of hard work that goes into the weekend: before, during, and after we do our singing. Thanks to a long list of HH and spouses who made it all happen:

- **Bruce Budde** for making the arrangements at a very fine motel.
- **HH Ladies** who did make-up and flowers before our performance
- **Vida Allworthy** for her solid critique, then awarding us with her approving: "good"
- **Rich Kacvinski** for getting us where we needed to go (even those of us who go slow)
- **Carol McKeivitt** for her notes from the A&R judging session
- **Brian Lipe** for showing up with his encouragement (even when his quartet didn't sing)
- **Don Reckenbeil** for bringing all his love, support, and direction to the whole HH experience.

**'Wild'-wood Sounds.** It takes more than music to make a contest weekend. Who can forget the sound of the monster trucks roaring in F-flat while contestants were singing softly? Or the sound of the rainstorm roaring like a drum on the convention center roof, forcing one chorus to restart? And how about that announcer for the quartet finals who screamed so loud you couldn't understand who he was introducing?

**Talkin' Barbershop.** The *Harmonizer* experience comes in all sizes and age groups. **Max Sabor** and his dad talked about what it meant to be a *Harmonizer*, where everyone is treated equally, and how Max plans to start his first quartet. **Ron Todd** reminisced about his first barbershop experience in Ohio in '48 when his dad let him drive the truck to practice before he had his license. Two former *Harmonizers* (now singing with other choruses) recalled with affection the fun and camaraderie they enjoyed while singing with us.

**Simply Spectacular.** Yes, you could take it right to Broadway. Alexandria's superbly polished package ("Lazy Bones" and "Summertime") was an entertaining tour-de-force: an example of how spectacular our hobby can be. Manhattan came out with that NYC 'tude', so you can just 'foggedaboutit'. "Gigilo" won the cheers from the guys and the sighs from the ladies. MAD is really lucky to have two great performing choruses like this to both represent and entertain us.

**Gospel on Sunday.** After all the excitement of Saturday night, it felt really good to experience the spiritual side of Barbershopping. **Michael Groves** and his wife, Shirley, **Rusty Williams** and his wife, Linda, and **Jack Gardner**, went to the

Gospel sing, which attracted over 150 participants at 9 a.m. on Sunday. It was organized and run by the *Chorus of the Chesapeake* for the second year. It featured Freddy King who gave an inspirational personal testimonial, sang with his quartet *SAGE* and directed the concluding "God Bless America." *Dundalk* invited other groups to join them next year, so Rusty and Jack volunteered the *Harmonizers*. (Our two chapters have something in common: Summer Choir Relief programs for area churches.)

**On the way home ...** at a Parkway rest-stop, four guys from the *Big Apple* recognized us and yelled: "Hey Harmonizers, did you have a good time at contest?" We sure did.

That capped the weekend experience. Where else can you enjoy fellowship, great entertainment, time with Freddy King, and a chance to share it with some really great guys? (By the way, singing was really fun, too!) ♪



PHOTO BY LEE ROTH

SOME OF THE NEW GUYS ON DISTRICT STAGE—L-R: Kyre Cahoon, Steve Thomas, Max Sabor, Bill Haller, Dan Heitcamp, Jim Maitland, Mark Bentley, and Ron Todd.

## A BARBERSHOPPER'S OBLIGATION

by Lee Roth, VP Membership

One of our singers members approached me last week to apologize because he could not participate in one of our local performing events. He experiences a long drive to sing with us. I told him he need not apologize. Why? Because we are not all obligated to perform every time the chorus has the opportunity to perform. So, what is our obligation to the chorus, each other, and to ourselves?

Each member has the obligation to review the sign-up sheets and indicate interest and availability to perform in our various events. There is a sheet for each event. There are three columns: (a) yes I will participate, (b) no I will not be able to, or (c) I do not know at this time if I will be able to participate, but I might be able to. If you say you will be there, we do expect you.

Every time we take on a performing opportunity we need to present a balanced group. Our music leaders, our director and the section leaders, determine if we have sufficient qualified singers to accept a commitment to perform. If we do not, they

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## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by Ron Newsom

**Renewals:** Please congratulate the following for their continued years with the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*:

| Member:                | Years |
|------------------------|-------|
| <b>Ed Kunkel</b>       | 25    |
| <b>Dennis McKeVitt</b> | 16    |
| <b>Jim Maitland</b>    | 4     |
| <b>Tom Bashtarz</b>    | 3     |

**Next Renewals are for 12/31/2004.** You can renew your membership on line if you wish <http://www.spebsqsa.org>. If you need help, let me know.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Dennis Daly** has now formally joined the *Harmonizers*. He is the director of the Sussex County Chorus where he sings Bass. His knowledge and talent will add to the direction of success and growth in which the *Harmonizers* are moving. It's good to have Dennis in our family.

**Doug Lykes** is a Bass and a senior honor student at Hunterdon Central HS. He currently sings with "The Men of Hunterdon Central Choir" group. Doug participates in varsity volleyball and fencing. He plans to attend Raritan Valley Community College when he graduates. Doug would like to put a quartet together at Hunterdon Central. **Tom Bashtarz** sponsored Doug into the *Harmonizers*. Please join with me and the Board in welcoming Doug to the *Harmonizers*.

Info on newest members, **Woody** and **Wayne**, in next issue.

## HOLIDAY SHOW PROGRESS

**The Return of the Grinch** script is done and a summary has been presented to the chorus. The scenery is in the works and everything is on schedule. **Amy Heitkamp** has accepted the position of costume coordinator and will help turn the *Harmonizers* into Who's. Now that the contest is behind us we must now focus on the show and keep practicing the music. Rehearsals have begun and we must know the music.

The Ad Book Campaign was kicked off by **Chris Fordice** a few weeks ago. Please start working on the ads now. Do not wait until late November. We need one more ad over what was sold last year. The funds will go towards helping create learning CDs, buying uniforms, and developing programs to improve our voices, unit sound, and performance. Chris needs closings next week.

**NOTE:** *Always* have your tickets with you to sell, sell, sell!

## SHOW COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

### Ticket Sales

Ticket sales are underway with the leadership of **Ed Kunkel**. We need to push early sales. Our goal is to have a minimum of 600 for each performance. We will be pushing through another blitz of



advertising in November. Don't forget that we need you for the AARP performance on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be selling show tickets. There is a large audience out there just waiting for this show. Don't deny them the opportunity by not asking if they want tickets.

## BOARD BRIEFS

**Rich Cronce** asked how a performance request gets approved as some things get scheduled and approved but is not brought to the board. **Rich Kacvinski** spoke to the issue. The board currently approves everything.

**Nominating Committee:** **Art Cole** presented the slate of officers for 2004–05. Only the Secretary's position was vacant. **Art Cole** and **Rich Kacvinski** will work to fill position before election.

**House of Delegates** are **Art Cole** and **Lee Roth**. Info is on the Society Web page.

**Singing Valentines:** **Charlie Mohr** will chair the Singing Valentine event for Saturday, Feb. 12, Sunday, Feb. 13, and Monday, Feb. 14. Charlie is looking for strong support on the 14th—we're expecting a lot of opportunities.

**New Shirt Uniform** is delayed due to color from different lots did not match. **Rich Kacvinski** and **Sharon Cole** are working with vendor to resolve. Board indicated that this must be fixed the right way.

**Grants:** Received State contract for grant. **Lee Roth** passed it on to **Rich Kacvinski** to complete and file. Lee reported that the County Grant came in on October 1. **Ron Todd** and **Chris Heitkamp** will work to use this as a youth program grant. Ron and Chris are looking to work with the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Calendar for Chapter:** **Lee Roth** went over the plan to use and plot the planning of events on a large calendar. Purpose is to keep the board and members aware of up coming events.

The *Harmonizers* have been asked to sing with the *Hunterdon Symphony* in January for their Holiday Show. ♪

## NEWS FROM OUR AUXILIARY

by Carol McKeVitt and Sharon Cole, Co-Presidents

A special thank you to all the wives, family, and friends that came together on the contest weekend to root for our *Harmonizers*! It was great to see the enthusiasm and support for our husbands, friends, and family. Also, your support at our breakfast was greatly appreciated. It gave us all time to get to know one another better.

As some of you may have noticed, the ladies wear a red-and-white candy-striped vest at contest. These were made by the Auxiliary a few years ago, so that we could all be unified and identified as the *Hunterdon Harmonizer Auxiliary*. In addition, the vests are worn at the Holiday Show as the Auxiliary aids in ushering, ticket sales, and cookie sale. If anyone is interested in sewing a vest, the material and instructions are provided at a cost of \$10. Or you can purchase a completed vest for \$20. Call Sharon Cole (908-806-7114) or Carol McKeVitt (973-942-9668) if you would like to order one. ♪



PHOTOS BY LEE ROTH

## HARMONY EDUCATION

by Mike Fordice, VP Music & Performances

Several of our chorus members attended this year's M-AD Northern Division Micro-HEP one-day mini classes that was held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Boonton, NJ, on October 16. Those attending were **Jim Maitland, Pat Cerillo, Art Cole, Rich Cronce, Lee Roth, Mike Fordice, Bob Burnet, Murray Natkie, Max Sabor** (and Bill), and **Ron Todd**.

*Untamed* (**Jim Maitland, Pat Cerillo, Art Cole, and Rich Cronce**) was the only quartet being coached. Their day was somewhat shortened as voices began to fail.

The classes attended by the others included Basic Craft, which worked on music theory—lines and spaces, major scales, key signatures (major keys, only), meter signatures, note values, rests, intervals; Vocal Techniques, the fundamentals of good singing posture (and the importance thereof) and properly producing and supporting a tone; Ensemble Singing, becoming aware of what the other voice parts are doing so you can blend your part more effectively into the ensemble; and Beginning Directing, which looked at downbeats, cut-offs, conducting patterns, and the importance of body language.

It was a great day of coaching and learning. We're all looking forward to the next time and hope you can join us. ♪



Goodbye S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and hello Barbershop Harmony Society. The Society's legal name is still SPEBSQSA, Inc., but the Society Board has decided that we should be encouraged to refer to the Society as the Barbershop Harmony Society in all of our printed communications. There is an interim logo being used until a new and final one will be presented at some future date. What does SPEBSQSA stand for again? Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America. I think I like Barbershop Harmony Society better, how about you?—*The Editor* ♪

## A BARBERSHOPPER'S OBLIGATION (*continued*)

will poll those who have not committed to participate in their sections. But **no one is obligated** to participate if he has not signed up. We may have to back out of performing if we cannot get a qualified group, but early advance sheets and sign ups will avoid that possibility.

Increasing our numbers is the most important step we can take to assure ourselves that we have an adequate performing group for every opportunity without over taxing our singers.

There are three categories of performances in terms of our need for a full group. The first, and most important, includes our spring and fall contests, our spring show at Deer Path Park in June, and our Holiday Show in December. The second includes our paid performances, or performances that are before especially large audiences. The third category includes our volunteer performances before smaller audiences, such as nursing home groups, and our performing before small groups and in small venues.

I do not suggest that we perform for the third category of audience with an unqualified group, but I do say that we can perform adequately with a qualified group that is smaller than is required in the first category type performances.

We need to note that a balanced chorus consists of 40 to 50% bass singers, 30% lead singers, 20% baritones, and 10% tenors. In a chapter of about 50 singers, of which 10 are not likely to be active, we expect to have four tenors and eight baritones. If we are missing one or two basses we have about 14 singers in that section. If we are missing two tenors, we only have two to sing. There is greater pressure on the tenors and baritones to participate. The pressure is less if we have more singers to draw from.

My final thought on the subject is that we need to grow substantially if we want to be a chapter that can offer all of the activities that we know various barbershop singers look for. We want excellent singers to provide a great performance for our audience, be it a contest audience or a show audience. We want to sing a wide and deep enough repertoire to be able to perform widely in the community. We embrace our community service singing at local nursing homes, the VA hospital, the Hunterdon Medical Center, and similar venues. We enjoy quartet singing for the fun of it, and for the learning experience it provides. We have a good quartet program that will get better with more singers. So, bring a friend to our next rehearsal.

Join in helping us grow so no one singer feels a heavy obligation to participate when it is personally difficult to do so. We do not want the *Harmonizers* to be a burden; we want the *Harmonizers* to be the joy that singing represents. ♪

## ANYBODY CATCH MURRAY NATKIE...

on the **Applause Show** Thursday night, October 21? He was guest co-host with Rich Taylor! The show aired 6:30 p.m.–11:00 p.m. on WVRM AM 1620, Village Radio, Upper Montclair, NJ, and on the Internet at [www.villageradio.com](http://www.villageradio.com). Good job, Murray! ♪



**SIZE DOES MATTER** (continued)

us pretty average ... at least among the participants of this contest. Do we want to be better than average next year? Each member of the Harmonizers must answer this question for himself.

Of course, there are many mysteries about how judges score that don't make sense to me:

- How could one chorus who didn't move a muscle outscore HH on Performance?
- Why do slow and boring songs get more points than fast and interesting ones?
- Why is chorus size based on number of members, not the number on stage?
- Does it make sense to group a chorus with 30 on stage with one that has 90?
- Why are choruses scored lower at District than they are at Division?

When it comes down to it, numbers never tell the whole story. But they can be very useful in showing us where we have been, and where we want to go. Where do *you* want to go in '05? 🎵

PHOTO BY LINDA WILLIAMS



*Big Apple* (Manhattan Chapter) on stage.

# Happy Birthday! 🎵

November 12

**Lou Barile**

November 16

**Lou Bowers**

November 29

**Brian Lipe**



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

## PUBLISHING DEADLINE!!

Manuscripts must be in the editor's hands on the **20th** of each month for publication in the *In Tune with the Hunterdon Harmonizers* bulletin. E-mail articles to [lindaw23@earthlink.net](mailto:lindaw23@earthlink.net) or send them to Linda Williams, 24 Toad Lane, Ringoes, NJ 08551. 🎵

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS** (cont'd)

**Choreographer**  
Vida Allworthy

**Music:**

*Section Leader, Tenor*  
George Schwerdt

*Section Leader, Lead*  
Pat Cerillo

*Acting Section Leader, Baritone*  
Mark Bentley

*Section Leader, Bass*  
Rusty Williams

*Electronic Equipment & Learning Tapes*  
Charlie Mohr

*Music Librarian*  
Ron Todd

*Vocal Coach*  
Ron Knickerbocker

**Shows and Performances:**

*Craft Show*  
Richard Cornelison  
Tony Weber

*District Convention*  
Bruce Budde

*Holiday Show*  
Ron Newsom

*Picnic*  
Richard Kacvinski  
Rusty Williams

*Singing Valentines*  
Jim Knight  
Charlie Mohr

*Church Choir Relief (summer)*  
Jack Gardner

**Membership:**

*Public Relations*  
Jack Gardner

*Young Men in Harmony*  
Ron Roth

**Chorus Welfare:**

*Badges/ Health & Welfare*  
Nick Rigas

*Uniforms*  
Lou Bowers

*Housing (Elks)*  
Art Cole

**Chorus Merchandise:**

*CDs*  
Richard Kacvinski  
Ron Roth

*Cups, etc.*  
Dennis McKevitt

**Programs:**

*Meetings*  
Rich Cronce

*Refreshments*  
Clarke Applegate

**LADIES AUXILIARY**

*Co-Chairpersons*  
Sharon Cole  
Carol McKevitt

*Treasurer*  
Linda Kacvinski

*Corresponding Secretary*  
Alice Rigas

*Recording Secretary*  
Linda Williams

*It's Great to be a Barbershopper in Hunterdon County!*



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c/o Linda Williams, Editor  
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