



VOLUME 6, Issue 11  
November 22, 2004

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**OFFICERS**

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Chris Fordice  
Charlie Mohr  
Ed Kunkel  
Murray Natkie

*Director*

Don Reckenbeil

*Administrative Assistant*

Sharon Cole

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Music:**

*Assistant Directors*

Rusty Williams  
George Schwerdt

(continued on page 5)

## ♪ HUNTERDON HARMONIZER 2004–2005 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:**

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	Canceled
Tues	Dec 21	Ward Singing	HMC	TBA
Tues	Jan 11	Ron Knickerbocker coaching session at Elks		7:30 p.m.
Sat	Jan 15	Installation Dinner (tentative)	Mountain View Chalet	6:30 p.m.
Tues	Feb 8	Ron Knickerbocker coaching session at Elks		7:30 p.m.
Sat-Mon	Feb 12-14	Singing Valentines		TBA

### 'RETURN OF THE GRINCH'



We will be presenting our annual holiday show on Saturday, December 4 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Hunterdon Central High School. This show, as with others in the past, will have sets, staging and choreography that include holiday favorite songs done in four-part harmony.

This year the Grinch returns to Who-Ville to see why it's been such a happy place for the past 10 years. The audience will see some changes in how the Grinch, the Mayor, and Cindy-Lou Who view Christmas. Will Cindy-Lou melt the heart of the Grinch with her special friendship song?

The leading roles are being played by **Chris Fordice** (as the Grinch), **Ron Newsom** (as the Mayor

of Who-Ville), and **Don Reckenbeil's** daughter, Alison (as Cindy-Lou). **Don** is the musical director of the show.

The *Harmonizers*, dressed as Whos, will spread Christmas cheer and marching kids will become toy soldiers.

**Max Sabor** and his brother, Luke; **Dan Heitkamp** and his brother, Nick; and Georgie Natkie will be "Harmonizer Kids" participants. **Max** and **Dan**, ages 12 and 10, are the youngest regular members of the *Harmonizers*. Emily Reckenbeil will also be participating.

Other entertainers will join the Harmonizers. At the 2 p.m. show, the Hunterdon Central High School Choirs (under the direction of Hillary Muccino) will perform.

The 7:30 p.m. show will feature the Somerville High School a cappella choir, directed by Karen Gorzynski. *Vocaholics* will also sing. The grand finale will include all performers for renditions of "One Voice" and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

—reprinted from the *Hunterdon Observer*, Vol. 18 No. 14. ♪



## UNTAMED SING OUT AT PRUDENTIAL

by Bruce Budde

*Untamed* was the featured entertainment recently at the grand opening of Prudential New Jersey Property's new Clinton office (where **Bruce Budde** happens to be the 'biggest' realtor!). *Untamed* sang throughout the new offices for invited guests, including **Lee Roth**, visiting dignitaries, such as the Prudential NJ Properties Chairman, Bill Keleher, and Mayor of Clinton, Matthew Holt, who performed the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Bruce even chimed in with *Untamed* on a couple of their numbers. ♪



*Bruce Budde trying to teach Untamed how to sing in "Who-speak."*



Art Cole, Jr.

## A HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO ALL

We have so much to be thankful for this year! If we reflect over the past year, each one of us can think of a number of things that can make us smile. If you just take a moment during this holiday season to sit down and think about all of the things we enjoy—yes, we are truly blessed.

It might sound a bit crazy, but going to rehearsals every week to learn our Barbershop-style of music and work at becoming a better singer is really a wonderful thing. First of all, you rub shoulders with other men who enjoy the same thing you do. What joy there is in singing well and then learning how to become even better singers encouraged by the men who coach and evaluate us. If you really thought about the good things that come out of every Tuesday's rehearsals, you would probably enjoy the singing even more than you do now. If you thought about the guys who cannot sing with us—because of travel, time, or health—and those who have not [yet] experienced what we enjoy, you might appreciate being a *Harmonizer* even more.

We all have families and friends, and even those we know from church, synagogue, or other organization, to be thankful for. The reason I mention this is just to remind us throughout the holidays to be thankful for everything that we have. When we have opportunities to sing for those living in nursing homes and the area hospitals, let's sing full-hearted. Let the love that we have and the blessings we enjoy flow from the music we make with our voices. I would like every man in the chorus to look into his own heart and see if there is something that he can be thankful for. Just think, if we all could become a bit more happy with ourselves, then we could enjoy one another all the more. I, myself, look forward to singing each week. Is it hard and sometimes draining, well yes. Are there nights I could just stay home and do something else, well yes. Guess what! If you decide to make the *Harmonizers* a priority and become thankful for the voice you have been blessed with, then you will want to make the extra effort every Tuesday.

When we perform for others and put on a great show, it feels great! If you do the best you can and apply yourself to learning everything, you will feel good inside. Let's all enjoy our blessings—our family, friends, and fellow singers—this season. Reflect! And be happy this holiday season! ♪

### "THE OLD SONGS"

"The old songs, the old songs, the good old songs for me . . ." was composed by Geoffrey O'Hara who was born in Ontario in 1882. O'Hara was a banker and professional musician. He received an honorary doctorate in music from Huron College.

O'Hara composed songs for Al Jolson and Enrico Caruso. Two of his better known popular compositions were "K-K-K-Katy" and "Your Eyes Told Me So." He also composed many spirituals including "There Is No Death" and "I Walked Today Where Jesus Is." It isn't known whether he wrote barbershop songs although he was the founder and first president of the Manhattan chapter.

"The Old Songs" is really an introduction to a more complete work of 14 pages, "A Little Close Harmony." It is a glee club type song with banjo and other instrumental background.

In the early days of our Society, O'Hara gave permission to use the introduction as our theme song.

—Author unknown, most recently seen in "The Ballyhoo", La Cresenta Chapter, Bob Barnes, Editor; submitted to PROBE site by Wm. Grant Carson, former VPBE. ♪

## SECRETARY'S CORNER

by Ron Newsom

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

Member:	Years
Dave Stadtmauer	9



**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

**Sherwood (Woody) Kneebone** is a Lead/Baritone with 19 years of experience, including some great performances with the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*. His knowledge and talent are vital pluses to the chorus. Please join me in a Harmonizer welcome for Woody and his wife, Jean.

**Wayne Deery** is a Bass and started his interest in Barbershop singing when he was in High School. Wayne is a welcomed addition to the Bass section. Please welcome Wayne and his wife, Donna.

## HOLIDAY SHOW PROGRESS

### The Return of the Grinch

By the time you read this we will be ready to perform our show. It is coming together nicely. We can see that all of you have been working on your music. Please continue to do so. We need quality sound and lots of expression and action. **Be sure to get your costume in order and wear it to one of the rehearsals for a check.** Be colorful and fun. You really need to become your character and keep your mind in the show. The words of the narrator will prompt your action. Have fun with the character and be the "Who" person for the entire show.

Please remember that you will have make-up (light) for each show. There will be items to take it off between Act I and II, but I suggest you bring a damp wash cloth in a plastic bag to help out with taking it off. You will need to be there early to get your make-up on for both shows. More will be covered on that as we near the show start.

## SHOW COMMITTEE PROGRESS

### Ticket Sales

Ticket sales are underway with the leadership of **Ed Kunkel**. Please continue to push ticket sales and get them into Ed as soon as possible. Promote the show to everyone you know. Our goal is to have at least 600 paying customers for each show.

### Ad Sales

Ad sales were off this year for various reasons. This is why we need to really push ticket sales. Thanks to **Chris Fordice** (Mr. Grinch) for his leadership. **Mike Fordice** has a great program designed for us. Another great job! 🎵



## THE POWER OF MUSIC

—taken from the *PROBE* website and from the harmonet. Written by Mary Knox, Royal City Ambassadors, Guelph, Ontario

I'm sitting here at my desk watching an 83-year-old gentleman with significant memory loss singing along with "My Wild Irish Rose" on the stereo. He knows his name, and a good many old tunes—and that's about it.

Once every two weeks, I go to the local nursery home to play for the Alzheimer Group's Sing-Along Hour. When I enter the room, three of the 21 residents might actually look at me—the rest are in a misty world. But when I begin to play "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" or "Let the Rest of the World Go By," those tunes become my one and only connection with them, and most of them begin to sing.

What is it about music that makes such a deep impression? Is it the melody? The lyrics? The emotion? A combination of things?

On one occasion we did an experiment with the Alzheimer's exercise class. Everyone was asked to imitate the instructor as she raised her hands high. No one responded. She repeated the maneuver a number of times, as animated as possible speaking first in a soothing tone of voice, then in a lively voice. No response again. Then we passed around rhythm instruments. Tamborines, bells, sticks, etc., were put into the hands of the residents. Then with the accordian, I would simply play a waltz beat with the bass keys—oom pa pah—and immediately 75% would respond. Faces would begin to lighten up, and rhythm instruments would begin to shake. As I'd begin the melody, "Casey would waltz with a strawberry blonde," and the instructor would ask everyone to imitate her and raise their hands in the air and shake the instruments, again approximately 75% would respond, doing what they were asked to do.

Music is such an effective catalyst.

At the other end of the stick, I've gone into many classrooms noisy with active, challenging kids, asked everyone to come and sit down on the mat for a few songs, and had little response because no one was paying attention or could hear what I was saying. But if I begin playing a song on the guitar, and singing the instructions, to come and sit down on the mat, I have everyone's cooperation.

And some schools no longer have a music program!

I'm sure you've recognized this effect on seniors when you sing in the homes.

Can you explain it? 🎵



## BOARD BRIEFS

(Selected notes from the October 18 Board meeting)

by Ron Newsom

## MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

**Rich Kacvinski** indicated that someone should be appointed to assist Don to listen to the various voice parts for sound quality and unity. **Mike Fordice** and **Rich Cronce** agreed that this was a good idea and will review for a solution.

Ron Knickerbocker be retained as a chorus coach on a monthly basis as of January 2005.

### Upcoming Performances:

**Rich Kacvinski** reviewed the upcoming performance scheduled for the Chorus.

- There is a request to sing with the Symphony in February. More details are needed. **Art Cole** and **Rich Kacvinski** will speak to Don about the show.

## GRANTS

**Rich Kacvinski** reported that a grant for the Youth Outreach program is being submitted. **Chris Heitkamp** will head the project and he and **Ron Todd** wrote the project. **Lee Roth** worked on it as well and we should hear back in November.

State Grant was delivered the week of Oct. 11. We should hear back in November.

## HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Major change reported by **Art Cole**. Only "B" choruses will go to the District contest. This means that the *Hunterdon Harmonizers'* performance is the sole criteria that will send us to districts.

## NEW BUSINESS

### COTS Registration

**Art Cole** reported that most of the new board for 2005 will be going to COTS training.

### Singing Valentines

Ad was completed for the Holiday Program Book for this year to promote our Valentines Day program. The Board agreed to increase the cost of a basic Valentine to \$50. ♪

## WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT... WORDS OR NOTES? YES.

by Rusty Williams

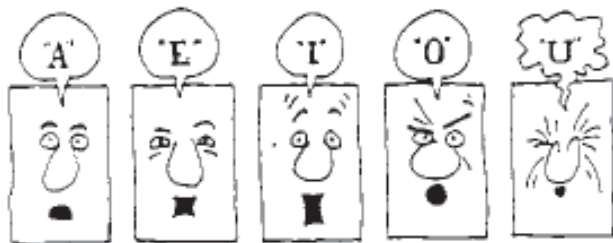
We need both words *and* notes to create an exciting performance. However, in the learning process, I will submit that we've been giving WORDS short shrift. Our musical messages are conveyed with WORDS, and we achieve our expanded sounds only when we are matching vowel sounds (WORDS) and pitch with appropriate balance and timing. All too often we've struggled with the words of our songs, and this is a handicap we don't need learning tapes to overcome. How important is the right word? Here's what happens if you aren't sure of the word or vowel sound to be sung:

- You'll be late... whatever sound you make (maybe pulled from your neighbor who may also be guessing) will be out of synch.
- You'll be flat. This is a 100% certainty, since when the singer is in doubt, energy sags and pitch follows. Doubt = Down.
- You'll be facially out-of-it. Try to sell a message when you don't know the words.

There are two points to stress here:

1. To learn our songs, we must learn the words first, and learn them solidly. The notes will fit remarkably well when we're singing the same vowel sounds
2. Really retain the words, so that when we perform our songs, we can savor and sell the message clearly and energetically.

We all know that there are numerous other artistic factors that enhance our performances, but we need to have the basics LOCKED to make these sparklers effective. Eliza Doolittle was frustrated by WORDS, WORDS, WORDS, but we can't let that happen to the *Harmonizers*. Let's make sure our WORDS come across to the audience by really knowing them, enunciating them, and using them as the performance foundation they must be. ♪



Waiting at a stoplight? Enunciating the vowels helps exercise facial muscles while killing time.



Ed Kunkle, Charlie Mohr, and Ron Roth working on the set for the 'Return of the Grinch.'

## NEWS FROM OUR AUXILIARY

by Carol McKeivitt and Sharon Cole, Co-Presidents

For those new to the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*, the auxiliary is comprised of any and all supporters of the group. Members can be male, female, adult, child—all are welcome! It's not just a "Ladies' Auxiliary" anymore! The word "auxiliary" means "giving or furnishing aid" and that's what we do for our *Harmonizers*. We help and support them in any way we can.

For the annual holiday show on December 4 for example, the auxiliary will help sell tickets at the door; sell cookies and refreshments at intermission; sell *Harmonizer* sweatshirts, baseball caps, etc.; manage the raffle drawing; and distribute programs and usher ticket-holders to their seats. We have also been asked to help apply make-up to the chorus members for both performances.

The items being raffled off this year consist of a snowman (purchased while at contest), some Longaburger baskets, and the top prize, a Lenox Grinch Ornament Tree. We think the Grinch Tree will be a nice tie-in to the show. Mothers and children alike will enjoy the item.

Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work. Any questions, please feel free to call Sharon Cole (908-806-7114), Linda Kacvinski (908-788-8055), or Carol McKeivitt (973-942-9668). 🎵

# Happy Birthday! 🎵

December 3  
Mike Noland

December 10  
Rusty Williams

December 15  
Tim Snyder



\*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 McKeivitt

### Programs:

*Meetings*  
Rich Cronce

*Refreshments*  
Clarke Applegate

### AUXILIARY

*Co-Chairpersons*  
Sharon Cole  
Carol McKeivitt

*Treasurer*  
Linda Kacvinski

*Corresponding Secretary*  
Alice Rigas

*Recording Secretary*  
Linda Williams

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



Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through funds administered by the Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission.



c/o Linda Williams, Editor  
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