



In Tune with the

HUNTERDON Harmonizers



Hunterdon Chapter (Flemington, NJ), Mid-Atlantic District

Meetings are held Tuesdays at the United Methodist Church, 116 Main Street (corner of Main and Maple) in Flemington at 8 p.m.



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**2008 INTERNATIONAL
1ST Place**

Bulletin Editor of the Year

Linda Williams
24 Toad Lane
Ringoes, NJ 08551
609-955-0517 (cell)
lindaw23@comcast.net

Associate Editor
Rusty Williams

Photos by Lee Roth

Contributors
Jim Lester
Ron Newsom
Don Reckenbeil
Lee Roth

Web site
www.njharmonizers.org

Webmaster/Graphic Designer
Michael W. Fordice, PhD

COACHING SESSION WITH STEPHANIE: KNIGHTS-LY DONE!

Good singing must include these 3 elements of *Vocal Production*:

- a. Well supported
- b. Freely produced
- c. Fully Resonant (TALL, WIDE, CROWN)

On 3/15/2011, Stephanie heard a nice freely produced tone. She chose to focus her lessons this day on the underlayment of "Engaged SUPPORT."

Exercise: S-F-Ch (repeat 2 times). Feel the "Kick" or Support in the soft tissue (epigastrium) or V under your rib cage.

When you start a phrase, connect this "Kicked feeling" to your singing.

In other words, need consistent psi / air pressure to support your supported sound.

Always sing thru a generic, open space.

The shape is important – should have a "cavernous" feel to get better Resonance.

Maximize the shape and thus improve your vocal production by:

- Raising the soft palette
- Inside Smile
- Lifting the cheek bones and eyebrows
- Creating more space between the back molars, allowing jaw to drop as far as it can (but naturally).
- Fill your "Dome", not jab at filling a "Steeple".
- Fix it, fill it, KICK it! E.g. "Knight time throughout the land..." Practice on oo--.
- Turn diphthongs artistically and with finesse.
- Singers are allowed to replenish their FUEL Supply (i.e. air) in choral singing.
- Singables – Sing through the N in Knight-time.
- Need LIFT on Rah, tah tah, etc.
- The LEAD section determines the sound of the ensemble;
- The BASS section drives the sound of the ensemble.
- Transitions:* 5 songs in the medley
- Each should have a huge parenthesis around it.
- Need a visual POP for each song.

(continued on next page)



FILE PHOTO

Each should take on a new character. Could be a big reset; color/texture change; dynamic change (may be hard in this medley); do it VISUALLY.

HOC – Ritard 2nd chorus more deliberately so it’s not a “mistake”.

“The” – take advantage of the forward placement on this word (“Be the best”)

I’m gettin’

Exercise: On the same note, make the intervals light forward, and tenorish, as in “Get me to the Joust, I’m a Knight not a mouse.”

Punchline – make ‘em work.

Finish all phrases. This is a sure-fire way to earn more points.

e.g. Heroes of chivalry...// dressed...

e.g. Plain in Spain.

e.g. ... shiny blade.

e.g. ... tools of the trade, etc.

e.g. ... Knight not a mouse.

REMINDER: We have special ensemble coaching: Tuesday 3-29. Mark Paul will work with basses and then the full chorus.

Tuesday 4-12. Stephanie Bricton.

—Don Reckenbeil

DUTY TO SERVE

by Lee Roth, VP Music & Performance



Included in your membership in the *Hunterdon Harmonizers*, along with having fun singing, learning, and performing in competitions and shows, is a duty to serve the chapter in some administrative or operational capacity.

A few of us have the talent to serve as music director or assistant director—Don, Rusty, and George. There are also a few who have the talent to serve as section leaders or vocal coaches. But no matter what musical talent level you have, there is a place for you in the administration and operation of our chapter. There is something that each of us can do, a way in which we can participate in the administration or operation so to further the mission of our chapter.

As a member of the nominating committee I search for those among us who can fill the various roles needed to advance our

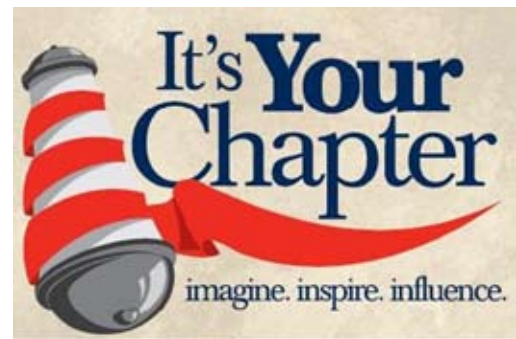
organization. There are those who can raise funds by selling advertising in our program books, sell tickets to our shows, and some who can lead us to sponsors. There are those who have contacts who can help us find desirable performance opportunities. There are those who can write or take photographs for the In Tune and other PR.

Some *Harmonizers* are available to attend Chamber of Commerce functions, visit media publications and develop a relationship to help promote our image. Some others can represent us on radio programs and promote the chapter by seeking new members and promoting our shows on-the-air.

Then there are those who have time to help out with the craft fair. The task accepted might be soliciting crafters, stuffing envelopes, or cleaning up after the event.

The opportunity to be a leader and board member is always available. If not this year, perhaps you could serve next year as president, secretary, or treasurer. How about being a VP of marketing & public relations, membership, music, or development, or even the chorus manager? You could speak for chorus members as a member-at-large of the Board of Directors, a position that can lead to a future office position.

How do you fit in this spectrum of possibilities? As one member of the nominating committee I am hoping that each *Harmonizer* will send me an e-mail and tell me about your talents and interests and how you feel you can help this year, next year, or the year after. You might suggest others whom you’ve gotten to know within our group who have talents that are not obvious, but that would be useful to further our mission. You can contact me at any chapter meeting or by e-mail at Lee@intune2.com.



Greg, Ron, Jim, Dave (and several off-camera participants) doing the “Board of Directors” work that keeps our chapter humming.



GETTING THE RIGHT BLEND

Some of you may know that one of my side hobbies is making wine. For the last ten years, my wife and I have joined up with a number of friends, including some Harmonizers, to get a license and actually make wine legally in New Jersey.

We usually purchase grapes that are grown in California and have the grapes shipped here to a facility that has all the machinery to make our job easier. Although we have made wines from a single grape such as Pinot Noir or Cabernet Sauvignon, our best wines have been mixes of various grapes with different flavors, character, and style. In fact some of the most expensive wines in the world are mixtures and rely on more than just one kind of grape. One of those is called Opus One.

Will all the various grapes mix well together to produce a great blend? It's not as simple as it may seem. Different types of grapes are grown in different regions with different climates and growing conditions. If harvested too early, they maintain a "green" herbal quality with a harsh aftertaste. If harvested too late, they may be too ripe or too bloated to make good wine. If all the grapes are perfect, the mixture must still have the right percentage of each grape varietal to end with a pleasing product. Many producers even let you know specific percentages and types, although for some it is a well guarded secret. Even if all these items fall into place, it still may take up to two years in a barrel for the blend to develop correctly,

Don and the music team have a similar challenge in getting the best blend out of our singers. We need the strong undergirding from the basses, the high notes from the tenors, the basic melody from the leads (most of the time), and then there's those guys who fill in the chord gaps with sound called baris.

We are in the midst of using outside instructors to teach us how to get the best vocal quality out of our voices in preparation for contest and upcoming appearances. In order to have our "grapes" ready for the award-winning blend, we must make a special effort to know our notes and words so that the emphasis can be on vocal quality. We have a wonderful mixture of old and new "vines" from which to draw our tones. We also must take the time to perfect the choreography that has been put in place for us, to stir the mix together. The music team has requested that we take the time to record and critique our own voices then turn in a recording we consider to be good enough to take our place on the risers for contest. Our taste test before final bottling.

Our attendance has been good through the cold weather and we have been fortunate to add a number of new voices already this year. In Portugal, they often hold back from sending out yearly vintage if it doesn't come out right. If we don't take the time right now to perfect our performance and deliver a great blend, we just won't qualify from October District competition. It's time for that final touch of personal improvement. As a famous coach once said, "Practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect!" Our goal is to sing well, let's do it! Let's make this contest our Magnum Opus.

—Jim Lester



Monthly birthday cake. With Jim away he arranged for Steve to present it. In the photo the birthday boys.



Life Renewed (with George on lead) introducing our third new song for the year, "You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You."

LIFE RENEWED'S TRAVELS

With Singing Valentines out of the way, *Life Renewed* continued its schedule of performances. A modified *LR* consisting of **Ed, Charlie, Ron, and Matt Mathews**, traveled to Lake Hopatcong on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to sing for a family gathering, celebrating their mother's 85th birthday. We sang 3 love songs and received a great big thank you for making her day. Her family was thrilled.

On 2/22, we traveled to nearby Brideside Senior Day Care Center in Flemington to entertain a group of ladies and gentlemen for around an hour. We all had a great time singing some of our favorites like "Lion," "Down Our Way," "Sweet and Lovely," "Coney Island," and some great sing-a-longs for our audience. One lady even wanted to take Ed home with her, but he resisted as he was George's ride. She sang with us, but kept saying, "I'm going home." They were very appreciative of the entertainment for the afternoon.

On 2/27 another modified group of *LR* that consisted of **Ed, Charlie, Ron, and Don** (subbing for a sick **George**), entertained a group at the FISH fundraiser in North Plainfield. This is an organization that raises funds for food for the needy. There were several performers and performing groups. *LR* has been doing this for the last few years and really enjoy the responsive crowd. Thanks to Don for the assist. We then traveled to Charlie's Church in Bound Brook to sing for a person who was moving away. He was a great worker in the church and enjoyed our "Coney Island," "Cabaret," and "Lion" songs. Not sure if Don ever got over our performing standard, but we do have fun.



For March, a modified *LR* of **Ed, Ron, Mark, and Matt** went to Lambertville and provided a 20-minute performance for a couple celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. The family was pleased with the gift to their parents and we got all the applause. It was a beautiful day for Bert and Ernie... I mean Sam. (See picture)

—Ron Newsom

PREPARATION FOR DIVISION CONTEST UNDERWAY

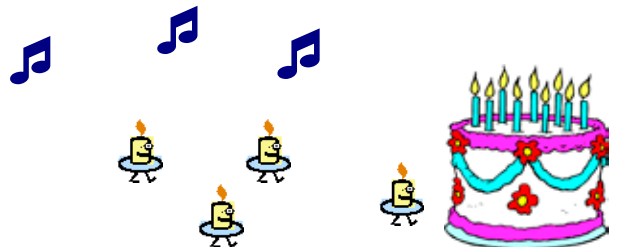
The Northern Division Contest will be held on Saturday, April 30, as a one-day event at Beard HS in Morristown. The chorus competition will open the day followed by the quartet competition. There is supposed to be a modified Jamboree, but details are a bit sketchy right now. It appears that the chorus plateau winners will sing one song each and then the finals for the quartet competition will be held. Oh well... it should be a fun time for all.

The chorus is getting ready and will be singing "Heroes of Chivalry" and "Knight School Medley" in costumes and set. It should be a fun time. We are working hard with all kinds of coaching coming in to improve our quality of singing and make sure we will sing these songs well enough to get into the District Contest in Lancaster this fall.

As you know, we already have rooms reserved in anticipation of a good Division showing. According to the Music Team's schedule, we will be having a send-off on Tuesday, April 26. Mark your calendars so you can plan to be there and be part of the excitement of this Division Contest send-off. Our quartets will also be performing and fine-tuning their songs. Also, please plan on being there to cheer the chorus and quartets on in Morristown!

—Ron Newsom, Contest Coordinator

Happy Birthday to you!*



April 8	Ed Kunkel
April 9	Dan Hunter
April 13	Isaac Careaga
April 21	Tony Weber
April 24	Rich Cornelison

*Any birthday missed only means that you didn't age this year. Get me the date and we'll make sure that you age next year! Send your birthday to lindaw23@comcast.net.

BOARD

RHS

Board Members present: Lee Roth, Matt Matthew, Carmen Olivo, Christian Hunter, Ron Newsom, Jim Lester, David Holzwarth, Greg Robinson, John Reimer, Goose Stauffers, Erhan Berber

The February 21, 2011 meeting of the Hunterdon Harmonizers Board of Directors was called to order by President Jim Lester at 8:04 p.m. at 91 Main Street in Flemington, New Jersey.

Treasurer's Report: Matt Matthew provided a written narrative report and a detailed spreadsheet for February 2011. The report showed a slight cash position decrease: Income came from performances and the Installation dinner, and expenses included HH uniforms and admin/hall rental.

Final Holiday Show 2010 -related items are still awaited (e.g., Auditorium Invoice) before the books can be closed. The HCRHS has not arrived at a fee schedule yet.

The Chapter will not receive payment for the 2011 Deer Path Park performance due to State/County Budget restrictions. However, it was decided by the Board that we would still do the concert. Alternative options to augment HH 2011 income will need to be actively pursued to make up for the shortfall.

Membership: Christian Hunter reported that average attendance is about the same as usual, and that his policy is to contact people who miss three consecutive meetings. Additionally, he has updated the visitor materials and sent for review. Jim will print out some copies and bring to tomorrow's chapter meeting. The "Real Men Sing" event will be postponed to another date mainly because we can't find a venue. A new date will be determined later.

A motion to accept John Carley as a member was made, seconded, and passed, and Dennis McKeivitt will be reinstated as a member of the Harmonizers. He will also be a dual member and rejoins the Manhattan Big Apple Chorus.

Music & Performance: Lee Roth discussed his ideas around setting up the parameters for the next show which had been outlined in his report. The board members are asked to look closely and give feed back to Lee for discussion at the next board meeting. Regarding the upcoming contest, Christian would like to let Sandy (costumes) know what we want and timings within the next two weeks. This has been passed to Carmen for follow up. The chorus has not been registered yet for the contest. David will look into the deadline for registering and will register the chorus. Mark will have song information.

A motion to adopt the idea of contest chorus as outlined in Lee's report was made, seconded and passed.

Program: Greg Robinson indicated that -that besides his report - he will have some new ideas to present at the next board meeting.

Marketing and Public Relations: Erhan Berber reviewed the Singing Valentines program and will be sending David a report.

OLD BUSINESS

Outstanding in Front program: Travel expenses from Outstanding in Front program have already been approved. Jim will give the receipts to Matt to pay.

Unity Bank: A motion that we use electronic banking and continue to require double signatures on expense vouchers was made, seconded and passed. The electronic banking will only be used for those businesses that accept it.

Singing Valentines Program update: Books are almost closed on this successful program - one outstanding invoice remaining.

Riser Etiquette: The riser etiquette page that Christian distributed was reviewed. A motion to adopt this with the addition of "No cell phone usage during a meeting other than during breaks" was made, seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to hold a 50/50 drawing at the 1st Tuesday chapter meeting of each month to raise money to buy refreshments was made, seconded and passed.

It was discussed that the chapter storage space needs to be cleaned up and reorganized. Lou Barile said that he would help but we need to set up a day when several members can be there.

Greg Robinson brought up his idea to help the chapter raise additional money at the next Craft Fair. He will have a table set up for the Harmonizers and members will be able to donate items to be sold.

Festival of Harmony: Rich Taylor of the Rahway Chapter contacted us asking for donations and/or help for this event. A motion to donate \$100 to the event was made, seconded and passed.

The next meeting is Monday, March 21, 2011 at 8 p.m. at 91 Main Street, Flemington, New Jersey

—David Holzwarth, Secretary

DIVISION CONTEST SCHEDULE (DRAFT) SATURDAY, APRIL 30 BEARD HS, MORRISTOWN, NJ

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 9:30 | Start of Chorus Competition – all participants need tickets. |
| 1:15 | Completion of Chorus Contest (including announcements and a one song performance of the plateau winners) |
| 1:15–2:00 | Lunch: A lunch buffet will be available. See Ron Newsom to signup and prepay before 4/12/11 |
| 2:00–5:00 | Chorus evaluations begin |
| 5:00–6:30 | Dinner/Relax |
| 6:30 | Start of the Quartet Competition |
| 9:45 | Completion of the Quartet Competition |
| 9:45–12 | Quartet Evaluations. |

TO MEASURE OUR SINGING IMPROVEMENT

by Lee Roth, VP Music & Performance

Our participation as a chorus in contest is primarily for the purpose of measuring our improvement as a group of singers. Of course, going to contest is also a social event among our members and fellow barbershoppers, whether they sing or not.

It has been a long standing policy set by our board and membership that our primary goal is to improve our singing as a group and to have fun in the process. The best way to improve our singing is for each of us to take it upon himself to improve his singing as an individual. Thus we have come up with the new motto, "If it is to be, it is up to me."

The principal way we know to measure our effort to meet our goal is to participate as a group in contest. It is my hope that every member of the *Hunterdon Harmonizers* will participate in the contest experience. If for any reason, a singer feels he is unable to sing in the contest, I hope he will nevertheless come to the event and support our singers if possible.

Highly competitive chapters compete to the exclusion of almost all else. That is not our goal. We do many things, among which is a desire to be competitive in contest, but I suggest our goal is not to be "highly competitive" at this time. There are chapters who are so competitive that they follow a practice of focusing an undue amount of energy and rehearsal time on the two songs they will sing in contest. I admire chapters that manage to raise all of their singing to the point where they feel comfortable singing any two songs from their repertoire in contest.

We can be proud of how well we sing. Of the 100 chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District, we have achieved an average position of being in the top 15% over the last seven years. Our goal during that entire time has been to score well enough to qualify to participate in the District contest in the fall. We have achieved that goal each of these last years. About 75 chapters in the District have not.

On the downside, our scores have been relatively flat. That is, we have not improved our scores as consistently as we have wished. There are many possible reasons. As the music vice president for this year I have assumed the responsibility for making an attempt to move that trend upward.

Setting aside the idea that choice of songs sung in contest—a responsibility of the Music Team and Board—can be a substantial contributing factor in the scoring process, I believe that we can achieve the sought after trend through a combination of chorus and individual vocal coaching and feedback from our music leaders to our sections and their members. The number of sectional rehearsals this year, and increased length of those rehearsals, are one step in that direction. Regular coaching is another step. The use of audio and video recordings and playback to our singers is yet another step on the road to improvement.

Our singers themselves can contribute to a positive trend by regular attendance at rehearsals each week and special rehearsals as called. Additionally, our singers can contribute by working with their learning recordings and the recordings they make of their own singing within the chorus.

The review by section leaders of personal recordings is not intended as a basis for excluding singers from participating in contests or in performances. The sole purpose of self-recording and review is so the singer can receive help to improve his singing contribution.

I look forward to our full participation in the April 30 contest.

MORE WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN YOUR CHAPTER (PART IV)

Final excerpt from an article in the Harmonet by Kim Benner, Buckeye-Columbus Chapter.

- Encourage local youth to start a "harmony club." Form a high school boys or girls barbershop chorus. Assist local high school music directors with education of barbershop harmony.
- Send a picture and article to your local newspaper.
- If you find yourself with some free time, call your president and offer to help.
- Donate a barbershop tape or CD to your local library.
- Send a barbershop CD to a local radio station and ask for airplay.
- Help set up blackboard/flip chart/dry erase board, whatever is used to teach craft during rehearsal.
- Offer to coach quartets, teach music theory or give one-on-one vocal production instruction.
- When offered a stick of gum or breath mint—accept it.
- Stay "positive."
- Learn to read music.
- Lend a fellow member a barbershop tape or CD that they haven't heard.
- Form an ad-hoc/pick-up quartet and sing for the chorus.
- Always show up prepared for a performance, correct uniform/costume, correct make-up (if applicable), warmed-up and ready to perform.
- Offer to help build props for your annual show.
- Support all of the barbershop organizations and fellow chapters/choruses by attending every show and event in your area you can. We are all in this together!
- When traveling, try to visit a chapter meeting wherever you happen to be.
- Be mindful of members' personal lives. Everyone can only give what they can. Take what you can get from each member and encourage them to be happy, relax and enjoy the hobby.
- Never give anything less than your best effort every time you sing.
- Keep the Whole World Singing and Harmonize the World!



♪ **HUNTERDON HARMONIZER SCHEDULE** ♪

Make sure to confirm your commitment to performances (sign-up sheets at chapter meetings).

Date	Event	Location	Time
April 30	Northern Division Convention	Morristown Beard School	TBA
May 30	Memorial Day Parade	Flemington	TBA
July 24	Heath Village		TBA

You can also check our calendar online at <http://www.njharmonizers.org>

2011 OFFICERS

<i>President</i> Jim Lester	<i>Secretary</i> Dave Holzwarth
<i>VP Financial Development</i> Ron Todd	<i>Treasurer</i> Matt Matthew
<i>VP Marketing & PR</i> Erhan Berber	<i>Past President</i> Ron Newsom
<i>VP Membership</i> Christian Hunter	<i>Musical Director</i> Don Reckenbeil
<i>VP Music & Performance</i> Lee Roth	<i>Administrative Assistant</i> Sharon Cole
<i>VP Program</i> Greg Robinson	<i>Members-at-Large</i> Desi Desvernine
<i>Chorus Manager</i> Carmen Olivo	John Reimer Goose Stauffer



Hunterdon Harmonizer
ACTIVE BOTY HONOREES

Art Cole.....	1989
Rusty Williams	1991
Rich Kacvinski	1997
Dennis McKevirt.....	1998
Ron Roth.....	1999
Lee Roth.....	2000–2001
Ed Kunkel.....	2002
Rich Cornelison.....	2003
Rich Cronce.....	2004
Mike Fordice.....	2006
Lou Barile.....	2007
George Schwerdt.....	2008
Ron Todd.....	2009
Ron Newsom.....	2005–2010

MANUSCRIPT DEADLINE FOR NEXT BULLETIN!

Manuscript deadline is **April 22nd**—get your articles in for publication in the next issue of “In Tune with the Hunterdon Harmonizers” bulletin. E-mail articles to lindaw23@comcast.net or send them to Linda Williams, 24 Toad Lane, Ringoes, NJ 08551.

2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MUSIC

Assistant Directors
Max Sabor
George Schwerdt
Rusty Williams
Choreographer
Vida Allworthy
Section Leader, Tenor
George Schwerdt
Section Leader, Lead
Pat Cerillo
Joe DiPaolo (Assistant)
Matt Matthew (Assistant)
Section Leader, Baritone
Mark Bentley
Steve Sawin (Assistant)
Section Leader, Bass
Rusty Williams
Mike Fordice (Assistant)

Electronic Equipment & Learning Media
Mike Fordice
Music Librarians
Matt Matthew
Ron Todd
Chorus Contact
Ron Newsom
Quartet Contact
Ed Kunkel

SHOWS AND PERFORMANCES

Craft Show
Rich Cornelison
Tony Weber
Greg Robinson
Ted Maginnis
District Convention
Open
Picnic
Rich Kacvinski
Rusty Williams
Singing Valentines
Greg Robinson
Church Choir Relief (summer)
Jack Gardner

CHORUS WELFARE

Badges/Health & Welfare
Rich Cornelison
Uniforms
Lou Barile
CHORUS MERCHANDISE
CDs
Rich Kacvinski
Cups, etc.
Dennis McKevirt

PROGRAMS

Refreshments
Greg Robinson
ADA Coordinator
Ron Todd

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS

Rich Cornelison
Rich Kacvinski
Ron Todd

AUXILIARY

Co-Chairpersons
Sharon Cole
Carol McKevirt
Treasurer
Linda Kacvinski