



Heart of America



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- Dec. 4** Holiday Show/Unity Village
- Dec. 11** Columbia show, featuring HOA
- Dec. 18** Bell Ringing (MetroNorth Mall)
- Jan. 10** Installation Awards Dinner
- Feb. 14** Singing Valentines
- Mar. 19** HOA Show, Music Hall, w/*Power Play*

December 2004

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's
Heart of America Chorus



The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society

*Drawn by Harmony...
Bound by Friendship...
Striving for Excellence!*

WE ARE BUSY SINGING, RINGING IN HOLIDAYS!

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director

Welcome to probably the busiest December in HOA history! But, if our families don't kill us, it could also be one of the most fulfilling. We certainly will get our fill of performing, and probably reach more folks—especially nonbarbershoppers—than in any other previous concentrated period.

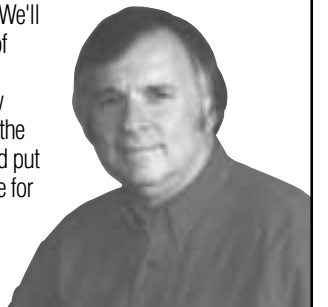
The joint holiday show with the *Kansas City Sweet Adelines* is a slam-dunk guaranteed musical and artistic success. **Dale Neuman** reports ticket sales are ahead of previous years, and we have a great opportunity to sell more HOA CDs—as we make our first major appearance as 2004 district champs.

The following Saturday finds us headlining the Columbia holiday show, where we'll sing virtually everything in our nonsecular repertoire—and a few more besides. In addition, we'll join the *Boonslick Chordbusters* and a children's choir for some joint numbers—should be a lot of fun.

And that takes us to the Dec. 18 bell-ringing for Salvation Army, which we often describe as our most tiring and rewarding outing of the year. Once again, plan to sing on the hour, every hour, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MetroNorth Mall. Invite your friends—and if they can't come, bring their donations!

Quartets, let me know your availability for the day. We'll make use of as many foursomes as are around. And of course, quartets can ring and sing between sets.

I'm encouraged (even overwhelmed) by the influx of eager new members. It's hard to keep up with who's qualifying and who's in the performing chorus and who's a guest... it sure looks as if we could put 100 on stage for March. Whatta great holiday present that would be for all of us! And what a tribute to the work of **Steve Carruthers, Grant Hunget, Vince Perry**, the board and your music team!
From Joann and me, *Happy Holidays!* ♥



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HARMONOTES

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Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson
 17905 East 24th Terrace Court S
 Independence, MO 64057-1332
 (816) 373-8633
 Harmonotes@comcast.net

CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday night, at St. Peter's United Church of Christ
 110th & Holmes · Kansas City, MO 64105

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
 Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
 Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888

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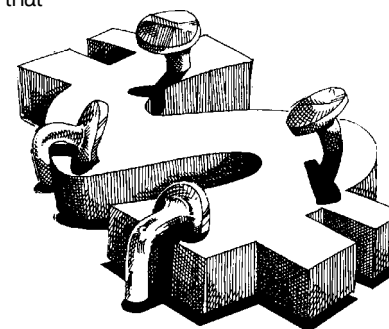
HELP THE HELPERS' FUND!

by Dale Neuman

Each year around this time, I make a plea for donations to the HOA President's Helpers Fund and this year is no exception. As you are thinking about gift-giving and tax-planning at year's end, please keep the Helpers Fund in mind.

As has been the case in those years past when we sang well-enough to compete at International, it has been so again this year—the fund has spent some of its resources assisting men who needed help in attending. It has also helped cover the expenses of District competition and our Retreat for others. So, as we head into another year where we will be going to International, I would hope that the Fund will be able to help all who have need to call on it. You can make that happen with your tax-deductible contributions made payable to: The Kansas City Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc. and dedicated to the Helpers Fund.

Thanks again. ♥



Heart of America Chorus

TWELVE-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

- Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion**
 Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead), Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists**
 Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead), Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion**
 Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead), Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)
- Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion**
 John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead), Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)
- BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion**
 Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead), Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)
- The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion**
 *Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead), John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)
- The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion**
 *Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead), John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)
- The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion**
 Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead), Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion**
 Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead) Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion**
 Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead), Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion**
 *Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead), *Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion**
 Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead), Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)
- 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion**
 *Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead), John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

- 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists**
 *Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead), John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)
- Crosstown Four**
 Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead), Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- Grandstand**
 Rob Mathieu (tenor), David Krause (lead), *Jeff Veteto (bari), *Adam Veteto (bass)
- Mother's Guys**
 Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu (lead) Rick Mathieu (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)
- New and Used Parts**
 Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead), Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Rewind!**
 Marlin Weidler (tenor), Thom Tisdall (lead), Dick Irwin (bari), *J.B. Witham (bass)
- Sound Alibi**
 Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead), Shawn Jeffries (bari), Darrell McCune (bass)
- Sounds Like Treble**
 Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead), Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Bay (bass)
- SureFire!**
 Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead), Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)
- The Buzz**
 Mike Troyer (tenor) Jason Eggers (lead), Kalin Tapp (bari) and Mike Louque (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
 Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead), Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

KING FOR A DAY!

by Grant Hunget



The week of October 26-31, I had the privilege and honor of performing on the "Coronet Club" Show (their equivalent to our AIC Show) at the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Indianapolis!

This Summer, **Susan Ives** (Lead of my Michelle's quartet *Zing!*) asked me if I'd be interested in being a KING? Well what normal guy wouldn't say "Yes"?! Then I asked her what the heck she meant! You see, Sweet Adeline Quartet *Queens* (Champs) get to invite their spouses, significant others, cousins, friends, whatever, to perform

in the *Queen's Men Chorus* on this Show each year. For the most part, this Men's Chorus consists of SPEBSQSA Gold Medalists & other Silver & Bronze Medalists. Every now and then though, they come up short on parts, and someone like me gets to slip in there! Plus, Susan's husband wasn't there (and doesn't sing anyway), so WHAT THE HECK! It gave me something to do while **Michelle & Zing!** were off practicing!

They sent me a disk & sheet music to 4 tunes & I learned 'em up! What a thrill! The whole group was about 120 singers. The (approx.). 35 guys consisted of: **Gary Parker, Gene Cokecroft, Bill Thornton, Doug Harrington, Gary Lewis** & many others (including **Jim Bagby's** brother-in-law **Jack!**). KC/Topeka area *Queens* on hand included: **Helen Shores & JoAnn Karaff** (*Hallmarks '79*); **Susan Ives, Sheila Martinez, Jana Brown, Donna Kready** (*Classic Edition '98*); and the newly crowned *Queens*, the *Buzz* with **Debbie Connelly. Renee Craig** arranged & directed all 4 joint songs that we performed. She's a hoot!

Zing! had a strong performance, finishing 22nd out of 52 Quartets. I say the judges need to go back to school! I watched and listened proudly, along with my Mom, **Connie Hunget**; Michelle's Mom & Sister, **Mary & Jennifer Carleton**; plus about half the *KC Chorus of Sweet Adelines!*

It was a fun week! ♥



WE'RE NEW AND WE'RE WORKING HARD!

by Dick Irwin

Hello everyone from the chapter's newest registered quartet.



We are *Rewind!* (the exclamation mark is a part of our name). We've had one opportunity to show off for the chorus, but since then we had to replace our bass... something about the first one moving to Arizona. Anyway, with music and sense of humor in hand, **J.B. Witham**, former HOA'er and now a member of the Liberty chapter, appeared on our doorstep and has worked his way into our hearts and harmonies. We are once again complete and working our collective buns off (not a "small"

effort) to build a repertoire and look for some coaching. One of these days we'll get a chance to sing for everyone again. We're looking forward to that.

So, from the short guy of this quartet, I say "Hey!" to everyone on behalf of *Rewind!* ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

- Chris Kinghorn December 2**
- James Davis December 7**
- Dennis Taylor December 7**
- Ron Fortino December 9**
- John Warrior December 10**
- David Glastetter December 11**
- Valdean Putzier December 16**
- James Kaut December 20**
- Jeremy Kaat December 23**
- Darrell McCune December 24**
- Grant Hunget December 30**

DONATIONS X 2 = \$9,800

by Mike Mathieu, Chairman, Salvation Army Bellringing Advisory Council, and *Heart of America Chorus* Bellringing Coordinator.

For 2003, your chapter collected \$4,861.48 for our bellringing efforts for the Salvation Army. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could double those efforts this year? I suppose some of you think I'm crazy, but if we work our plan, that could very well happen. Read on and I'll show you a doubly good idea.

If you are employed with a small, medium, or large company, chances are that they have a matching gifts program. Basically it says that if you donate money to company approved charities, normally a 501C3 not-for-profit organization, your employer will match your contribution to that charity, dollar for dollar. In even greater situations, companies will match two for one what employees pay.

This plan has been in effect with most companies many years, but in the hectic schedule that all of us are involved in during the holidays, we normally forget to take advantage of this fundraising bonanza. This year we need to act now, then by the time bellringing comes around (Dec. 18 at MetroNorth) we will have our donations made, and the matching gifts from our employers already received.

With my company, I have to write a check to the Salvation Army, then send a copy of that check, and a company matching form to the Home Office. A few weeks later they will send a check direct to the Salvation Army, and note that it came from matching my donation. Whatever amount I donate, my company will match. In my business we call that "found dollars". What it amounts to is a doubling of my donation. The money is there for the taking, but I have to get the request in early so that by the end of bellringing, 12/24/04, the money is received, and the *Heart of America Chorus* gets the credit. If we could all take advantage of this option, we could turn our \$4,900 goal into \$9,800. Plan our work and work our plan!

Check with your Human Resource office today to find out the procedures, and get your check written before the end of November to assure matching by 12/24.

Here is one other note about your personal donations to the Army. If you bring your personal check, or mail in your check, or however you make you donation, please make certain that you **DO NOT PUT YOUR CHECK IN ONE OF THE GREEN MAIL-IN ENVELOPES THAT YOU RECEIVE IN THE MAIL FROM THE SALVATION ARMY.** Doing so results in the check being credited to the Army's mail-in campaign, and not credited to the *Heart of America* total. Luckily last year I recovered most of the checks that were deposited into our kettle during bellringing, however if checks were mailed directly without my knowledge, we did not get credit. Perhaps we actually raised much more than the \$4,861 which we were credited.

If anyone has any questions about these procedures, please contact me directly. Thanks in advance for all your Salvation Army efforts this Holiday Season. ♥

SALVATION ARMY BELLRINGING 2004

by Mike Mathieu

As in years past, the *Heart of America Chorus* will again ring bells for the Salvation Army, and the date is Dec. 18, at MetroNorth Mall. We will begin setting up the risers at 9 a.m., and anyone who is willing to help, should be there at that time. Chorus warm-ups begin at 10 a.m. in the Community Room, the same room we used last year.

Our first concert will begin at 11 a.m., and we will begin each thirty-minute concert on the hour, with the final beginning at 4 p.m..

At 4:30 p.m. we will tear down the risers, gather the money, and then proceed to **Ann and Ron Abel's** home for a victory celebration.

Look elsewhere in this issue for details of the party.

Last year was the best year ever for our Bellringing effort, so we automatically created another challenge for our group this year.

With all of the activity going on this December, we have to dig down even further to produce the type of yeoman effort we have come to expect. If you are unable to make all of the performances, we encourage you to make as many as you can, and if you are only able to participate at one concert, your efforts are appreciated.

As best we can verify, our chapter has been ringing and singing for the Salvation Army since the late 1940's or early 50's. What began as standing on a street corner downtown in front of Emery, Bird, Thayer, has transpired into our latest series of 30-minute concerts. Each year our quota continues to grow, as you manage to beat the previous year's total. This year's goal should be \$4,900, \$39 more than our 2003 total.

We will have more details on this performance as the event draws closer. We will also have uniform details as the event gets closer. Check the webpage, and look for an information sheet two weeks before the event.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support. Any specific questions see me at your convenience. ♥



HUG ME, I GAVE BLOOD TODAY

by Harvey Shapiro

It has been 20 years since I made my first visit to the Community Blood Center on Main Street. Seven fellow workers accompanied me that day. I was 35 years old.

What drew me to the blood center was a 12-year-old girl named **Sherry**, the niece of a fellow worker. Sherry was battling Leukemia and desperately needed blood donations. I knew my AB+ blood type was not a match for her, but that was not the reason for donating. This young person used hundreds of pints of blood during her long struggle. Many people also donated platelets for Sherry, which meant a longer connection to the machines. It became my habit to mark my calendar for the next donation date then recruit coworkers for the trip to the blood center.

Unfortunately, the disease prevailed and Sherry, age 15, died in November 1986.

Over the next few years, my goal and that of many fellow workers was to continue to donate every eight weeks in Sherry's name, making up the hundreds of pints that Sherry had required. I averaged five donations each year, intermittently passing the 'gallon' marks that long-term blood donors achieve. The red heart-shaped stickers from the center became familiar at work: "I gave for the 1st Time", "Hug me, I gave blood today" and "Blood is Life". Several coworkers became first time donors with our encouragement and support.

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, I donated for the 100th time. **Jim Bagby** also hit that number a short time ago.

What a great feeling to achieve this goal after so many years. I am hoping that my health will hold up for many more years of giving and I have adopted the Blood center's slogan: "Blood is Life – Share It!"

*It became my habit
to mark my calendar
for the next donation
date...*



IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING FOR SINGING VALENTINES '05

by Rich Huyck, Singing Valentines Coordinator



OK gentlemen, now is the time to choose up sides and for your quartet for Singing Valentines in February 2005! Valentines Day (Feb. 14) falls on a Monday in 2005, so most of you will have to plan for just 1 day of vacation from the office.

This annual effort is one of HOA's major money makers so if you can swing it, get a quartet and prepare for one of the most fun activities you can have while making great barbershop harmony! All you have to do is master our standard 3 song valentines package (*We're here to bring you... , Heart Of My Heart, Let Me Call You Sweetheart*), OR any other tunes appropriate for the occasion.

We are now in the initial planning stages and if any of you want to volunteer to help in any fashion, let me know.

There will be more detailed information made available as we get closer to February.

With your help and commitment, we can make this one of the most successful Singing Valentines campaigns ever!



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus
wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1994

President **Dale Neuman** announced that HOA's high scores at the recent district contest had resulted in a wild card invitation to the international contest in Miami next summer. He described how the decision was made by the chapter board at a special meeting in early November where discussion of the

pros and cons was apparently quite intense. However, the final vote was overwhelmingly, although not unanimously, in favor of making the trip. Dale also reported in his article in the December 1994 issue of *Harmonotes* that he'd dispatched "Old Reliable and Always Available" **Mike Mathieu** to attend the FAM (for "familiarization") sessions in Miami the weekend of November 11-13.

John Starcke's photographs of new members included one of a fellow named **Don Peck** (anyone know where he is these days?) who had transferred over as a seven-year member of the Overland Park chapter. Don was retired and lived with **Donis** at 296 Mojave West at Lake Quivira. They had three children then (any more since then, John?), and should have some handsome grandchildren (maybe great grandchildren) by now. It's been 10 years, you know.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1984

This edition of *Harmonotes* starts off with an article by **Dale Neuman**, who was apparently the ticket chairman for the 1985 annual show coming up on March 16, which was to feature the *Blue Grass Student Union*, the 1978 international quartet champions, our own *Special Touch*, current CSD quartet champions, and the HOA Chorus, which had just won its seventh straight district chorus championship. But I found this especially interesting: "As we are attempting to reduce our paperwork in handling almost 5,000 tickets, we are moving toward direct sale to customers on a 'best seat available at time of purchase'

basis. In short, cash will carry! Therefore, while members may still act as ticket brokers for their customers, we will be striving to honor prepaid orders with the routing orders. And since members will be routing orders to us (by mailing flyers to their customers and calling them about the great show we are going to put on), we will be no longer keeping track of who sells the most tickets." Since this was to be my first show as a member of HOA, I didn't take much of a part in the ticket brokerage aspect, but I seem to recall hearing some of the members complaining more recently that discontinuing the recognition of our more active ticket salesmen is one reason why today our sales aren't as great as they used to be. Anybody want to comment on that?

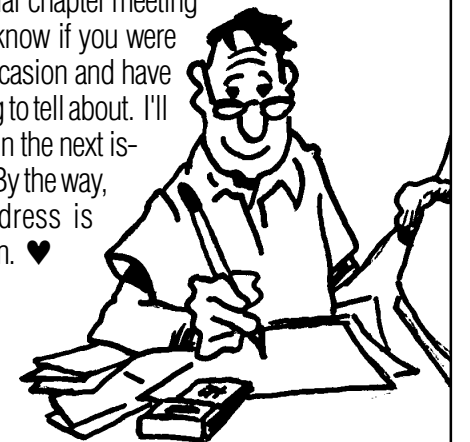
Newly elected *Heartbeats* officers were: **Marilyn Dike** (president), **Nita Tolar** (secretary), **Ruth Sundermeyer** (treasurer), and **Dixie Abel** (Sunshine chairperson).

In his regular column, "Hoorays and Howcomes," **Jim Bagby** says, "Hooray for the *Heartbeats* and wives who are manning the Federal Building doors each week." That was only one of the several headaches we experienced while we were meeting there. Isn't it wonderful that we have St. Peter's as our landlord now?

FORTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1964

Anybody remember this? As reported in Editor **Warren Edmonds'** December 1964 issue of *Harmonotes*: "We have been notified by a special PROBE release that 'Keep America Singing,' a film featuring the *Sun Tones, the Four Renegades, the Main Street Four, the O'Lyrics, the Foursome*, and the Salem, Oregon, Chorus, plus over two thousand barbershoppers at San Antonio singing 'Keep America Singing,' will be appearing in Kansas City some time in the future. It is opening Christmas Day in Chicago, Minneapolis, and several other points in Canada." Warren also said that Society publicity director **Hugh Ingraham** had suggested that local chapters take advantage of the opportunity for some great publicity by working out some joint participation with the theater manager prior to the film review. Warren announced that the film would be shown at the regular chapter meeting

on Dec. 15. Let me know if you were able to attend this occasion and have something interesting to tell about. I'll put it in this column in the next issue of *Harmonotes*. By the way, my new e-mail address is wadeliberty@aol.com. ♥





TICKET SALES FOR THE HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

by Dick Korek, Marketing Vice President

Would you believe that some 6,000 "pocket cards" were printed for HOA and the Sweet Adelines Choruses to use and they have been 90% used up to this date!! Wow... what a great response by everyone! This is what marketing is all about and everyone should realize that your smile and pride in this hobby are really what sells.

There is just a short time before the show, Dec. 4, and seats are still available—several hundred—so let's do everything possible to get the word out and fill Unity Village for both shows. It's a wonderful feeling to "play to a full house."

We have all worked hard and have a great show. Dec. 4 will be the time to share our talents and pride with our families and friends and all the folks who still are wondering what we're all about... *let's show them!* Looking forward to sharing a great show with all! ♥

JANUARY HARMONOTES DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17!

Chapter leaders, quartets, members, ...make plans NOW to submit your material NO LATER than December 17!

Your editor THANKS YOU ...and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas!



TONE-HENGE: AND THEN THERE WERE JUST TWO

by Ol' Jim

Among the eight Tone-Hengers and Hengettes, only Ol' Keith and I are still the only ones punching a clock. As of Nov. 17, Joann retired. Tain't fair.

Otherwise, November saw the Bowers return from a Caribbean cruise, the Schweers visited south Texas and Joann and I were just back from a 3,017-mile trek to the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Zion and Bryce canyons, the Escalante Monument country and Colorado. The Wenners waited impatiently for the start of Kansas basketball season.

In December, in addition to our "starring" role on the holiday show, I twisted some arms to get T-H to appear with my Cardio Jam rehab barbershoppers on their annual holiday open house. And of course we're looking forward to our annual holiday gluttony, er, dinner together, plus HOA bell ringing.

Looking ahead, we've been invited to join the Barberboys for their installation dinner. We dunno if we're the entertainment or the bad example... ♥

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT JUDGING CATEGORIES

Editor's Note: At the Atchison retreat, a question was posed about the judging categories. Carter Combs has taken time out to provide Harmonotes readers with the definitions below, straight from the Society C&J Handbook. This is public info, available from the Barbershop Society website. Thanks for sharing, Carter!

SHARED ELEMENTS

Each of the three categories "Music, Presentation, and Singing" is a particular orientation or perspective from which a judge views the total performance. To some extent, then, all judges will judge the total performance and certain elements of a barbershop performance will be evaluated by judges in two, or even all three, categories. Those aspects of a barbershop performance that are evaluated by judges in all three categories are the five "shared elements." Those five elements are described in the "Contest and Judging Handbook" as questions about the performance: 1) In the barbershop style?; 2) Ringing, in-tune sound?; 3) In good quality?; 4) Suitable to the performer?; and 5) From the heart?

Each category judge will determine a single quality rating or score, on a scale of 1 to 100. The judge will determine whether the level of the performance is excellent (A-level, from 81-100), good (B-level, from 61-80), fair (C-level, from 41-60), or poor (D-level, from 1-40), and award an exact score based upon an evaluation of all the elements in the performance that have an impact on his category. If no quality rating is appropriate owing to an unequivocal and definite violation of the rules, the judge will forfeit his score by awarding a 0.

MUSIC CATEGORY

Music is defined as the song and arrangement, as performed. The Music judge is responsible for adjudicating the musical elements in the performance. He judges the extent to which the musical performance displays the hallmarks of the barbershop style, and the degree to which the musical performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to the music's primary theme.

The primary hallmark of barbershop music is its consonant harmony. Thus, the quality of any barbershop performance depends largely on the presence, accurate execution, and artistic delivery of the consonant harmony traditionally identified with the barbershop style.

Indirectly, the Music judge evaluates the work of the composer and arranger. A basic prerequisite for a successful barbershop performance is that the song be appropriate to the barbershop style. Beyond this, the various musical elements should work together to establish a theme. The sensitive handling of musical elements—melody, lyrics, harmony, range and tessitura, embellishments, tempo, rhythm, and meter, musical construction and form—demonstrates musicality in a performance. A strong musical performance is one in which everything provided by the composer and arranger is skillfully delivered and effectively integrated in support of the musical theme. This requires that the music be suited to the performer, and that the performer understand the music. The music judge is prepared to accept any treatment that is musically plausible. The theme may also change from one part of the song to another. Often, the theme will be the song's lyrics, while at other times the theme may be one of the musical elements themselves, such as rhythm. Whatever the theme, the Music judge evaluates how the musical elements of the song and arrangement support the theme.

PRESENTATION CATEGORY

Presentation is a "giving," a "bringing forth," and a "sharing," including the thrill of transforming a printed song into an emotional experience and sharing it with an audience. Words, notes, and other symbols on the printed page are the composers and, subsequently, the arrangers gift to the performer. The presentation of the song is the performers gift to the audience. Within that presentation, the performer has the freedom to explore individual style as part of a unified performing group provided the individual expression does not override the bounds of good taste or contemporary standards of barbershop performance.

The Presentation judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience. Effect and believability are the benchmarks used to evaluate a performance and its impact. In this context impact means the transference of an emotional experience to the audience; it may be gentle and barely perceptible or it may be enormously powerful—but, to be measured favorably, it must be believable and appropriate.

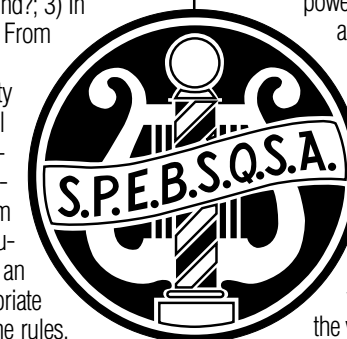
The Presentation judge is principally responsible for evaluating the entertainment value in a barbershop performance. Visual and vocal interpretation serve to explain the emotional content of the song as it is understood by the performer and to stimulate the audiences participation in the experience. The Presentation judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life—that is, how believable is the illusion of the story/message/theme in its visual and vocal setting. He will, of necessity, respond to both the visual and vocal aspects of the presentation, but he will principally evaluate the interaction of these aspects as they work together to create the image of the song.

SINGING CATEGORY

One ingredient that clearly identifies barbershop music is its unique sound. The best barbershop singing combines elements of technique and emotion to create an artistic result: the transformation of a song into an emotional experience for the performer and audience.

Primarily, the Singing judge listens for the pleasing effect of in-tune singing from voices that are free and resonant and exhibit no signs of difficulties. He expects to hear the ensemble as a unit, free from distractions by individual differences of quality or delivery. Furthermore, enhanced by the choice of harmonies, voicings, and voice relationships characteristic to barbershop, the ensemble sound can achieve a sound that feels greater than the sum of the parts: a "lock" or "ring," or the feeling of "expanded sound." The ring of a barbershop chord will always be the hallmark of the style. Any listener to a barbershop performance expects to be thrilled by the sound of a ringing climax, or awed by the purity and beauty of a soft and elegant expression of a song. Great barbershop singing demands mastery of vocal and ensemble skills to create the breathtaking effects of barbershop musical artistry.

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, good vocal quality, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, ring, and expansion of sound throughout the performance. When artistry is present, these elements are natural, unmanufactured, and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to fully communicate the theme of the song. ♥



A TRIBUTE TO THE UNKNOWN ARTICLE

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor and so-so Lead

This particular issue had only enough material to fill 10 pages. In the past, I would have simply pressed ahead and had a 10-page *Harmonotes* printed. However, 10 pages actually costs the chapter more to develop than 12! Here's why.

You take two 11 x 17 pieces of papers and fold them in half. That makes 8 pages for a bulletin, right? But if you have ten pages, you have to print one extra page by itself—front and back—then insert that page into the bulletin. That process is time-consuming and makes the meter run. So, in the interest of saving dough, my goal is to create bulletins in four-page increments, thus allowing us to garner more bang for the HOA dollar.

But for now, I figured I would make use of the space to drive home a point. Take a look at the right-hand page. Now ask yourself, are you in a quartet that never provides an article about what your foursome is up to? Are you a chapter officer who is so busy, that you have written very little about the area you're supposed to be heading? Are you a section leader who really thinks it doesn't matter if folks don't hear from you? Are you a new guy who has bought into the idea that he had to be a member for 10 years before he can chime in?

Some think our bulletin should win awards. I sincerely appreciate the compliment, because I take pride in serving you all. I have always had a dream. Since my work and private life aren't allowing me to help sing Lead on the competition stage, I figured, for now, I would strive to win gold for my chapter via the vehicle you're reading. If that's to ever happen, though, I must have sufficient gas to power the engine. I can't print the information if I never receive it. Judges can't score a newsletter if it's just full of dates and times. They have criteria that forces them

to deduct "points" if they deem the content weak.

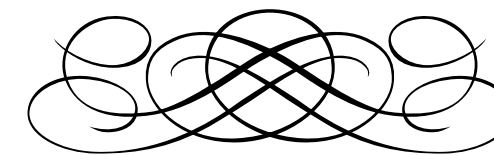
In defense, I have pretty much used all the antiquated "filler" that PROBE offers on it's website. But that's a different rabbit that really isn't worth chasing.

The point is, I need your help. No, not that guy next to you. I mean YOU. Even if you're a new member, you have something to share. In the time it takes for Pizza Hut to deliver a steaming pile of calories to your door, you could sit down and pen an article for *Harmonotes*. I don't want to hear about how writing isn't your forte, or how shy you are, either. You don't have to write something every month. Try bi-monthly, if necessary.

There's a saying I read years ago: "The speed of the team is the speed of the leader." So, dare to lead... by contributing encouraging or informative material. Especially if you're in a leadership role. Your words are vital. They convey ownership and pride. If nothing gets printed, many may wonder if there really IS anything worth getting excited about. Then there's the historical value. The material we print today is a time capsule for future generations.

You remember Prince Valiant? I recall one episode of this [older] Sunday newspaper cartoon that had Prince Valiant being escorted into a huge cavern by Merlin, the magician. Upon entering the chamber, he notices thousands of small, dwarf-like creatures. Each is seated at a desk, feverishly writing. Valiant asks Merlin, "What are they doing?" Merlin boldly explains, "This is the Hall of Good Intentions, where all of what mankind means to do—but never does—gets penned down for the ages."

That's what these two pages are meant to show—all our good intentions for our monthly chapter bulletin. Hopefully we can begin filling future pages with more high octane. Just imagine...how good your article would have looked here! ♥



IN MEMORY OF THOSE ARTICLES THAT NEVER APPEARED

