

HOA CHORUS BARBERSHOP HARMONY SHOW

Heart of America Chorus

April 4 - GUEST NIGHT
April 21-23 - CSD Prelims, Iowa City
May 2 - Darin Drown coaching
May 13 - Richmond Show, Farris Theater, 7:30 p.m.
May 21 - 1st HOA recording session for new CD, White Recital hall
June 4 - 2nd recording session

Photos courtesy of Don Fuson

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Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
816 West 121 Street
Kansas City, MO 64145



April 2006 Volume 06 - Issue 4

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!

Chairman Shares Joy Of Show, Membership by Jerry Garrard



Ron McIntire

I'll tell you what: if being director of *Sons of Liberty*, program vice president for HOA and 2006 show chairman didn't bring self-induced stress. Try adding family troubles, the loss of a grandmother, having parents move in, finding out my stepfather has cancer, relocating my house, having my vehicle stolen and wrecked -then to top it all off by being unemployed for 120-plus days. That's enough to break most people.

It is the pure joy and commitment that come from the risers on Kansas City Chapter meeting nights that keep me living. Without my personal responsibilities to the chorus, I wouldn't be in such high spirits day in and day out. Planning throughout the weeks and months for these days brings my heart to skip when we are able to pull off a show as successful as this year's. You should be very proud!!!

There are many folks who work like an 'indentured servant' for you. And several of them get recognition every week, such as **Jim Bagby, Mike Neff, Carter Combs, John Fortino, Mike Schumacher, Keith Schweer, Grant Hunget, Dick Korek, Stew Grosser** and **Vince Perry**. I'm sure that I've left folks out, but wanted to mention those names.

And then there's one gentleman who's there every Tuesday night, willing to make sure that you get all of the help required for you to be part of the performing

chorus. This man's heart sank when he found out there were individuals who didn't maximize the vocal coaching experience and were then not able to maintain the required criteria for the show. **Darrell McCune** gives his time and talents every week to those who ask for his help. He corrects the Music Team when he spots errors and he helps to guide the chorus - HIS chorus in the direction he wants it to go. He makes suggestions to the Board and Music Team. He spends hours on the road commuting from Ottawa, Kansas, every single rehearsal. If I could nominate a man for a second Ozzie Award, it would be this man. His quiet, behind-the-scenes efforts are exactly what make HOA such a success.

Just think of all the riser crew guys, the membership guy(s), the marketing guy(s), the Music Team, the directors, the editing staff, the stage crew, the sound guys, board members and all of the TEAMS who make HOA great! Without these folks, I wouldn't have been able to 'produce' such a fine show for our friends and families to enjoy. You should take time to look around at each other. There are many of you that do much more than just show up on the risers late and complain. I go to chapter meeting nights because YOU work so hard and reflect back upon me the energy and efforts that I personally put into our product.

I've recently found myself spending more time thinking about the things that make life important. Is it my vehicle, or my job, or my house, or clothes? Or is it my relationships? No one can tell me that success is measured by a paycheck. I can measure my success by the relationships that I've managed to forge with you men and supportive women that will last me a lifetime.

(Continued on page 2 ♡)

INSIDE!

• Annual Show Reviews, Highlights and Reflections
• Top-Notch Shots Courtesy of Don Fuson!

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

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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:

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Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

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



(Continued from front cover...) And you folks have trusted me with your show income of over \$30,000. Where on earth would you ever get to see that kind of success take place? You guessed it -- right here with the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter, *Heart of America Chorus!*

When the curtain went up Saturday afternoon at 2:08, my quest as 2006 Show Chairman was complete. At that point, I was able to look out over the audience and could feel the love they had for us as it washed over the footlights and completely engulfed the chorus. Thank you for all of your individual commitment and time given for your HOA brothers!

Relationship building is all about "Sharing the Yoke of Commitment" and you folks definitely continue to pull your own load. Congratulations for a job well done. I'm very proud to be a member of the *Heart of America Chorus*. ♥

Now for the numbers:

Breakdown per show:
2 p.m. - total tickets = 1,004
7:30 p.m. - total tickets = 1,063
TOTAL SALES: 2,067 = \$31,119
(12.4% increase over last year).



Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to *your very own* charitable organization...*HOA!*

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used.

Be included in the list below, and proudly support HOA.

DONORS

Members And Friends Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus into 2006

Gold Heart
(\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Thom Tisdall

Bronze Heart
(\$50 - \$399)
Arthur Gibson
Dick & Joan Korek
Hugh & Nancy McCreery
Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Checks should be made out to: HOA
Give to any HOA Board member or mail to:
HOA, c/o Dale Neuman

816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011
Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1, 2006

There Is No Substitute For Quality

by Tony Strub, Chapter President



Ron McIntire

If there is a single word that can tie together all of the aspects of the 2006 Spring Show, it would have to be **Quality**. From the organization that began a year ago through the design of the show, the music selection, the teaching-learning-polishing work, the promotion, the ticket sales, to the group-sing of "That Old Quartet of

Mine" at the end of the afterglow, our Spring Show this year was a very special event. It is impossible to recognize everybody for their contribution because there were so many. That is a good thing because we are at our best when all of us work together and support each other. I want to give a special thanks to all of the members who remained after the evening show to take down the risers and load all of the equipment in the trailer. All of the work was completed and our clothes were changed by 10:30. I feel very proud and fortunate to be a part of an organization of the quality of *HOA*.

Two of my long-time friends who are experienced and highly successful choral music teachers called me on Sunday. One had seen several *HOA* shows in the past.

The other was attending his first *HOA* performance. Their comments to me were strikingly similar. For them, the quality of entertainment was excellent. They were both particularly impressed with the quality of the singing of the chorus and all of the quartets, including the high school kids. They made special reference to the quality of the sound, harmony and pitch. One of the teachers wanted more information about Harmony Explosion. March 25th at the Music Hall was definitely a big hit for everybody. Congratulations, *HOA!* ♥

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Ron McIntire

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Wednesday, March 22nd, and 18 drawings: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$309 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$1898. Last year, the total raised was \$1031. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$1166. ♥

Heart of America Chorus

SPONSORS

Thank You For Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus 2005-2006



DAVID F. HOKANSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



SONIC DRIVE-INS • SOUND TREK

The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Checks should be made out to:
Kansas City Chapter/
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Mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman
816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011

REFLECTIONS of "REFLECTIONS"

by John Erwine,
a first-time performer...



Ron McIntire

Backstage Saturday morning at the Music Hall, I've finally found my way to the myriad of dressing rooms with others who knew exactly where they were going and what lay ahead for them. Me, I didn't have a clue. Although I thought I had some notion of what would be happening since I'd printed the information sheet containing the day's schedule, I really didn't have a clue. Others calmly arrived and went about hanging their clothes on the overhead sprinkler pipes. It was only moments before a cribbage game popped out of nowhere. I was concerned about doing everything right and on time (and according to my wife, by the rules), and here was this card game in a corner aisle. Someone else was calmly reading a novel, others working crossword puzzles. I'm nervous. Where is the make-up room and will I get there at the right time for row 4? Do I dress first or get made-up first? How should the bright red hanky be folded? Am I mentally prepared? Of course what I was experiencing is normal for a new guy, I'm sure. From my instrumentalist competition years in high school and college I thought I knew exactly what I was in for, as I tried to fit into the slow-motion activities of the morning. There was confidence, perhaps some anxiety, certainly experience. But there seemed to be something else. Then suddenly it was time. Warm up.

What is this guy getting me into? I'm invited with others to visit the *HOA Chorus* a couple of times. He convinces me to attend a Christmas Show and a couple of Annual Shows, which were absolutely terrific. I think I was a

pretty hard sell (no pushing involved, just gentle coaxing) because of other obligations and the uncertainty of my skills compared to what I'd seen at practices and shows, and the time commitment that appeared was going to be involved. After all, I was used to the more laid back, twice-a-year-fun-loving-antics of the *Cardio-Jams* that head arm waver formed several years ago where we "work out" together. Then after many months of temptation, wavering, and "Oh, Boy's," it was too late. Someone cashed my check and I was warmly welcomed as one. **Jim Bagby** had "bagged" me as a new *HOA* member. Then came the challenge of learning the words, music, correct breathing, word sounds, pitch, resonance, "on the breath," focus, lift my eye brows, and the all-dreaded unmanly facial expressions in front of the mirror. More "Oh, Boy's." Now it's time to mount the risers.

As I'm in a smiling forward-poised position waiting for the curtain to open, full of excitement, uncertainty, hope, nervousness and just hoping the heck I don't mess up, I think of last night. Friday night was the technical run-through. It was a time for last minute performance brush-up and working out lighting and sound issues. Making sure all the signs worked right for "Dixie," and that **Elvis** was properly clothed. It was as I found, also a time for sharing. Everyone was thanking everyone. Pretty normal, don't you think? What wasn't normal is what happened next. There was a deep personal sharing from a number of directors and program members. A very emotional sharing of their feelings relating to song choice, our performance feedback to those emotions, cooperation of efforts and meaningfulness to ones' individual needs to give and receive. Not a sound. Not a dry eye. How can I not give all? How can I not live up to that expectation? What if I don't? I have felt it almost weekly before, but it is really now, tonight that I know, understand and appreciate the total love and commitment to excellence that everyone has to this...hobby; from the directors, to the section leaders, to everyone on the board and staff, to those on each side of and front

to back of me in this *HOA Chorus*.

The cribbage table is cluttered and vacant. The curtain goes up and the next thing I know is that it's time for the intermission. The performance was a blur. The crowd seemed pleased. The adrenaline is still pumping and I'm wondering how we did. How I did. Before we mounted the risers, all were gathered for one last warm-up, one last refresher of difficult parts, one last act of confidence in us as a performing group. There was time for recognition. There was time for the concern of a missing member due to sudden illness. There was time for prayer. Then there was time for those in front of the curtain. The reason we were here; the family members, friends, guests and everyone we were here to share that intimate Friday night experience with. And the missing nights from home, proving that we really are having fun and deeply want to share the end result with all. And let's not forget, each other.

Intermission seems to drag on for a lifetime. We would rather be on the risers, for sure. The TV in the Green Room is hovered around in an attempt to catch some of the guest quartets. It's noisy from the ringing hallways, there aren't enough chairs, and we can see and hear just enough to wish we were out front to catch it all live. But adrenaline or no adrenaline, it's time to get off my feet for a few minutes. The cribbage table is alive again. Another chapter read. Another puzzle solved. Then, finally, we are under the lights once more. For those who have performed before in the chorus, you already know. But for me, I wasn't expecting the emotion of the moment as it happened. When the tears well up, the lump in the throat grows too large to swallow and you have difficulty concentrating on the head arm waver directing *Auld Lang Syne*, then I wonder. After all, we sing it each New Year's Eve and most recently many times each week. Then comes *America The Beautiful*. Need I say more? Now the show is over. All over. Now I know. How good can a new guy feel? A new guy can feel like it's too soon to dismount the risers. There is still so much more to sing. A new guy can learn that he perhaps never really "listened" to the words and meaning of a song before. A new guy can feel

like we did what we came here to do; have a good time and make a whole lot of others feel the same way. A new guy can feel like the program selection for tonight was absolutely perfect and related to the audience well. I think a prayer was answered. I think a new guy thinks it's okay to cry.

My reflections? You know what they are. The same as each and every one of you have experienced: satisfaction, gladness, accomplishment, you name it. That feeling of something else I saw Saturday morning while wondering around the dressing room. What we all experienced Friday night and Saturday just before each curtain opening; one of unity in purpose, one of love of song, one of love of life; one of something we made happen during the short time the curtain was up with expectant beaming faces looking into ours. I don't know how I did. I do know how we did. The cribbage table is now cluttered and vacant. The book isn't finished. The puzzles aren't all solved. But, I know what we did. We...*Will Never Pass This Way Again*. ♥

DEAR HOA:

"The concert Saturday was great--the best ever! *Tone-Henge* stole the show again.

You did my favorite, "Auld Lange Syne" arranged by **Clay Hine**. He also did, "I Will Never Pass This Way Again." Two terrific arrangements. "Runnin' Wild" is a good new addition for the Chorus.

12th Street Rag did a favorite of mine, "Our Love is Here to Stay." And *Gotcha* did another favorite, "P.S. I Love You."

All in all it was a terrific show. Congratulations!

Gene Hall
Kansas City Jazz Orchestra

"On behalf of the children and their families, I'd like to thank you for the generous [\$2,000] donation of the *Heart of America Chorus*. You do sing so that children may hear and speak, and sing with joy.

I'm very fortunate to have this position. With community support, I can ensure that each child, rich or poor, handicapped or not, abandoned or loved, can have very best care. My staff and I appreciate what all of you do to repair the world, one song, and one child at a time."

Sincerely,
Cynthia Jacobsen, Ph. D., Fellow, ASHA
Director Of Hearing And Speech Department
Children's Mercy Hospital



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter!



James "Jim" Page is retired from the Kansas Gas Service Co., where he did new construction and maintenance. He lives in Leavenworth, KS and sings Lead in the *HOA Chorus*. Though Jim is a first-time barbershopper, he played coronet in high school and has sung tenor (SATB) in his church choir.



Robert Tipton is an information technology software guy living in Overland Park, KS with his wife **Jessica**. He sang a year and a half with the *Little Apple Chorus* in Manhattan and sings lead in *HOA*. Musically he played the piano for 14 years and sang in high school and college choirs.



Jeffrey "Jeff" Clymore lives in Gladstone, MO and sings baritone in the *HOA chorus*. He's single and a dual member with Columbia. His musical background includes singing in SPEBSQSA festivals and a college quartet. ♥

"A plethora of talent!"



Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire

Singing Valentines 2006! by Marlin Weidler, 2006 Singing Valentines Coordinator

For three days, the *Heart of America Chorus* once again delivered (or tried to deliver) to women (and some men) songs, candy, and flowers. Why do I say three days? Several members of the team arrived on Sunday to set up and organize the following two days of deliveries. I would like to say thank you to all who assisted in some way to make the 2006 Singing Valentines a success.



Rich Huyck – suggestions for contacting, organizing, and delegating the work assignments.

Without assistance from Rick it would not of been possible for me to coordinate such a big event let alone sing on the 13th and 14th.

John Landry - worked with Russell Stover candy to obtain the 18 cases of candy that were donated by the company. Figure 18 cases with 24 boxes per case @ retail value of 4.00 equals \$1,728 donation.

Mike Mathieu - obtained the Verizon phones that were used by all the quartets and headquarters at no cost to the chapter. Mike was also instrumental in directing Kansas Express to radio stations on the morning of the 13th for promotion advertisement.



Vince Perry - setting up the web site for the quartet signup and also for online valentine orders. Vince had to

work with **Ron McIntire** to make sure that what was on the web site information would transfer into Ron's database.

Phil Veltkamp - providing the printer, scanner, paper and other supplies for the headquarters hotel.



Dick Korek – contacted and worked with various radio, TV stations and Command Performance to promote the singing Valentines.

Many thanks to the two people who manned the headquarters hotel on all three days—Sunday through Tuesday.



Ron McIntire - for providing his computer and database expertise in receiving the orders from the online registration and the messenger service – putting the information into the access database and printing them out for delivery.



Al Higgins – for taking the orders and organizing them in a timely fashion that kept all the quartets busy on Monday and Tuesday. Al also took on the responsibility for arranging the sweetheart stays at local hotels and also worked with KMBC for the drawing of the Helzberg Diamond and Sweetheart stays.

I also would like to thank the Music Team for helping get the quartets ready to deliver the valentines.

I enjoyed working with Helzberg Diamonds in obtaining the pendant, Stumpy Floral and the realistic, plastic roses that were delivered. I along with Al kept in contact with the messenger service. Even though there were problems with the messenger service, I believe that can be rectified if we decide to utilize that service next year.

Others that I need to say thank you as well: **Pat Ross** and other ladies of the KCSA and **Joan Korek** for helping at the headquarters and getting the packets ready.

Special thanks to the quartets that took time out of their work day to raise money for Children's Mercy - *Command Performance*, *Oly's Orphan's*, *Happy Valentines*, *Cross Town Four*, *Hugs & Kisses*, and *C-4* from HOA along with *In 7th Heaven*, *Sound Investment* and *Heartsong* from KCSA. Thanks to **Gary Mehalic** for filling in at the last minute when **Dick Korek** called in sick.

Even though the control numbers indicated there were will over 200 orders, there were duplicate and cancelled orders and so the final tally of actual orders were 184 with the total of \$10,400.00.

As I write this – I have already been given the Barbershopper of the Month award for this endeavor. I would like to thank everyone for all the support they gave me and congratulations for doing a good job. It would not of been possible without the assistance of all of those that support the Singing Valentines in some manner.

The person I really need to thank is my wife **Beverly**. She is very supportive of me being active in this hobby and enjoys following along and helping out when needed. She was there to help the other ladies organize the quartet bags on Sunday afternoon and evening and then came back after work on Monday night to help with whatever was needing be done. ♥

From the Heart

HELZBERG DIAMONDS



Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire

Formata's Finale

by John Winfiel

Those of you who attended the afterglow on March 25 know that it was *Formata's* last performance with our original personnel. We have known for quite some time that tenor **Brian Marston**, would be moving to St Louis next fall. He plans to attend the University of Missouri at St Louis, where he will study music under **Dr. Jim Henry**. He also plans to sing with the *Ambassadors of Harmony* while attending UMSL. We have told him that we are expecting him to be in the next great college quartet to come out of the St. Louis area as well.

We had planned to compete in the upcoming spring contest, but baritone **Kevin Beauford** has decided that being on the front row of the chorus, on the board of his church, and singing in *Formata* are combining to take him away from his family too often. All of us who juggle work and family responsibilities with our barbershop lives understand the need to adjust priorities from time to time.

We thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing on the annual show last week. Experiences like that make the hard work to improve our sound worth the effort. We want to thank all those who have supported and encouraged us during our time together this past year. We received valuable coaching from **Jim Bagby**, **Mike Neff**, **John Fortune** and **Jerry Garrard**. Just as important were the words of encouragement from the rank and file members of our chapter. Even when our performances were sub par you encouraged us. Thank you all!

Bass **Brooke Meyers** and I plan to take a break from quartering for a while, and then we may try again to form another quartet. Until that time I plan to get back on the risers with HOA. With all the new songs in the repertoire, I have a lot of catching up to do! ♥

A Look Ahead To Songs For May Richmond Show

by Jim Bagby

With our annual show behind us, the next major performance for HOA is May 13 in Richmond, MO., just a few miles up the road. It's in a historic, restored theater where we've performed before to a very appreciative audience. It should be a great evening.

Since the chorus will be the featured act, supported by our fine chapter quartets, we'll be doing a longer show than usual. So in addition to all the songs from the March show, tentatively count on these numbers as well (all are on the latest learning CD and on the HOA web site):

Friends

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
I Have Seen the Light
x-Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again
z-Without a Song

x-may be done by just the previous competition chorus
z-possibility for a double quartet or mini-chorus. ♥

Win A Free Pass To Harmony U!

Applications are now being accepted for one full scholarship to the newly named Harmony University July 30-August 6, 2006 at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO. This scholarship is open to any first-time participant. Sessions are tracked three ways:

Quartets, Directing, and the regular Harmony University classes. Applications are on the table and should be given to **Charles Ramirez** no later than May 2, 2006. A committee will then decide the winner, who will be notified in mid-May. ♥

A New HOA CD

Doug Brott, Exec V.P.



It is time for a new CD. HOA has a great new repertoire, fantastic voices and tremendous leaders. *From the Heart* was very successful for us. Our next will be even better. The goal is to have the CD ready for distribution by our 2007 annual show. To meet that goal we must start now. The recording sessions have been set for May 21 and June 4. Most of the team is already in place to make it all happen. More information will be presented in coming months, but for now please do everything you can to make yourself available for the recording sessions on May 21 and June 4. Times will be approximately 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a break for dinner. The recording venue will be the White Recital Hall on the UMKC campus, same as for *From the Heart*. We need all of you to participate, whether to sing, provide support or both. Let's make it happen. ♥

Grandfather-Father-Son Chorus Slated For Indy

taken from *LiveWire!*



The beloved family-singing event returns for the 2006 international convention.

Share the big stage with your family! The Grandfather/Father/Son Chorus will perform on the main stage of the Conseco Field House on Saturday evening just before the Quartet Finals.

Tom Metzger, bass of *Realtime*, and his father **Charlie**, bari of seniors champs *Antique Gold*, will share directing duties. Those Metzgers know about family singing; with brother **Mark** (*Realtime* bari), they sang with Charlie in international semi-finalist *Counterpoint*.

The chorus will be limited to 200 singers. Deadline for sign-up will be May 15. The rehearsal will be from 5-6 p.m. on Friday, July 7, on the main stage of the Conseco Fieldhouse.

The two songs selected are both **Tom Gentry** arrangements and were sung by *Power Play*. The songs are "Side by Side" and "When There's Love at Home."

To sign up: Email jdebusman@barbershop.org for a registration form.

Your fee of \$15.00 per singer will cover sheet music for the two songs, a part-predominant CD, and a shirt you'll pick up in the Convention Office in Indianapolis. ♥

20 More Reasons To Sing In A Quartet

taken from *LiveWire!*

What I've learned about quartet singing through the years...

1. It's fun.
2. You have total responsibility for your part, not the responsibility for the other guys in the chorus section.
3. You can really ring chords! Yes, choruses can produce overtones, but not the lock and ring of a quartet.
4. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee to decide what you're going to sing.
5. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee to decide for whom you're going to sing.
6. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee for any other darn thing, like moves and such.
7. Yet, if you get good, the chapter will ask you to sing on the show.
8. If you're good enough to sing on the show, your family and friends will be more adoring than if you simply sang in the chorus.
9. Your section has unison sound! :))
10. You don't have to watch a chorus director.
11. You don't have to pander to a chorus director, or look to him or her for inspiration, and all the other things choruses must do with chorus directors.
12. You learn more about blend and balance from playing a tape recording of your quartet than you could ever from a chorus director.
13. If you also are a member of a chorus, then you make the chorus better for having learned to sing in a quartet.
14. You don't have to be a member of a chorus if that's your preference.
15. You'll be popular with the Singing Valentines Chairman.
16. You'll sing Valentines very well.
17. Resolving decisions about when, where and what the quartet will sing only requires convincing the tenor. :))
18. The other three singers take delight in the responsibility of keeping the baritone in only three dimensions. :))
19. You get to choose your quartet costume.
(After convincing the tenor, of course.)
20. You get three really good friends.

That's only 20. My quartet-preferable friends on the harmonet will probably add several. And my chorus-preferable friends will probably castigate. Well, so let it be.

I love quartets,

Grant Carson

Old Spice, Westminster Chapter

Close Enough For Government Work, a McDonnell-

Douglas and Westminster Quartet

Musical Feats, a quartet of the Musical Feast Chorale of Lewisville, Texas

And one yet to be named if we can only find a tenor, Sherman, Texas

YOUNG HARMONY HORDE



Nebraska's 2006 Young Men in Harmony Day on March 13 drew 365 participants from 21 high schools in east-central Nebraska. Our arm-waver, Jim Bagby, was guest clinician, assisted by Double Wide from Doane College as the teaching group at Norris High School, just south of Lincoln. The huge group put together by the Lincoln Chapter's Jon Peterson sang "Love at Home" and "Hello, Mary Lou." International finalist Storm Front from Denver was the guest quartet, wrapping up the exciting daylong event. (Photos by Joann Bagby)

Recognize This Formula? P = P - I

by Jim Bagby, HOA Director



One of the Presentation Category coaching formulas is: P equals P minus I.

I could walk around the block and let you ponder what those might stand for, if you have not encountered it before, or we could just save some time:

Performance equals Preparation minus Interference. In other words, the end product is a reflection of how hard you worked and polished, less what nerves, distractions, technical difficulties or outside forces (on either side of the stage) got in the way.

I suggest a successful show is decided in a similar fashion. The audience, which is the only criteria that really

matters, wakes up the following day and weighs the total enjoyment of a performance by how the highlights compared with the lowlights.

SO: on March 25th, how good was the headliner? How good was the chorus? Song selection? How about the emcee(s)? Chapter quartets? Novelty acts? Sound system? Lighting? Pacing? Length? Staging? If any of those were not up to par, were they distracting enough to affect the final grade? If you listen to the post-mortems in the past couple of dozen years or more, the only review from our MEMBERS is always: "best show ever." We've generally passed any semblance of objectivity, and the reason is probably easy to discern—we only listen to families and friends who attend the show. When was the last time they rushed out to the lobby, or phoned the next day to tell you "Wow, Bill, whatta rotten show!" (OK, maybe a wife will give us an honest evaluation in private).

Well, I obviously can't claim to be totally objective, either. But I think I can look at our original P=P-I formula, as a PRES judge and 35-year HOA show participant, and at least be honest about the key components.

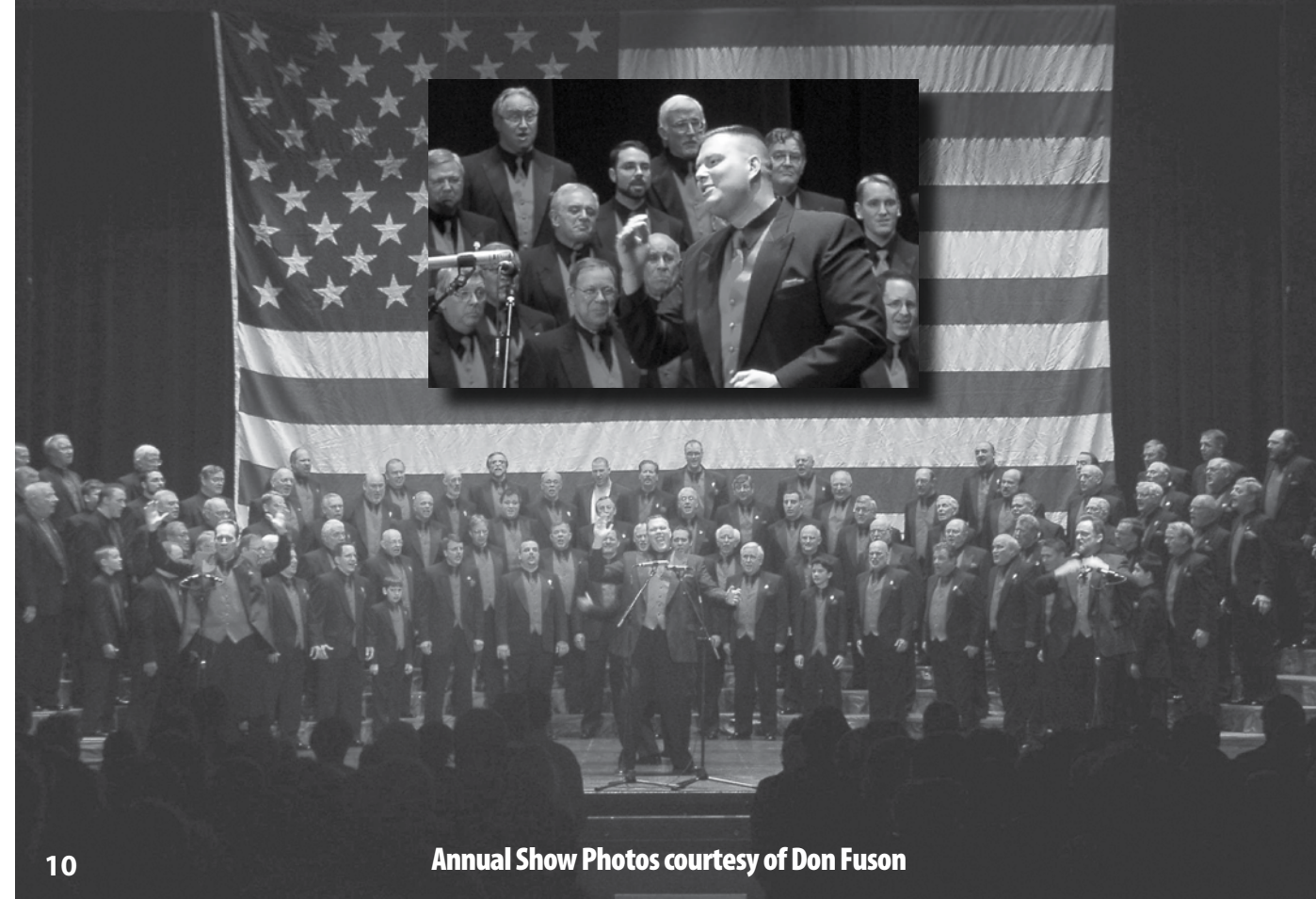
Gotcha! gets a solid A as headliner, and are great guys to boot; hard combination to beat. All our chapter quartets were solid, and most improved on the night show. *12th Street* could have,

of course, headlined. *Tone-Henge* got a great reception (we won't talk about the afterglow). I've already said I think the chorus has never sung better on a show. Period. Can we perform better? Yes, and we will. The variety of songs was huge (**Mike Neff** can brag about "Happy Together" for years). We could have used an easy beat for the 2nd song and I didn't have one. The show pacing was the best in my memory, particularly at night, so obviously the chapter spokesmen did their jobs well—which really makes me happy! The show ran almost 2:30, and 2:20 would be better, but... We got mostly great reviews on the sound system, which is tough to do in the Music Hall. By the night show, the lighting and tech went very well. The junior high and senior high quartets were smash hits.

Add all that up and there's miniscule "I" to subtract from "P" or from success. So I could not, grading as objectively as possible, give the show less than an A for entertainment value.

So my thanks to all the 91 HOA members who were on stage by the rousing finale. And read the article in this issue by Show Chairman **Jerry Garrard** to see who gets the rest of the credit. ♥

60th ANNUAL SHOW!



Page 10 - Iraq Veteran Neil Johnson (LTC, US Army) leading the chorus in *America the Beautiful*
Page 11 - Top left: *Command Performance* (Carter Combs, Jon Gathright, Monty Deurksen, Rich Huyck);
 Top Middle: *Fourmata* (Brian Marston, John Winfiel, Brooke Meyers, Kevin Beauford);
 Top Right: *All In!* (Mark Meyer, Duane Lawson, Don Young, Kip Matthew)
 Middle: The *HOA Chorus* sells with zeal to the audience; Bottom: John Fortino directs the chorus



Page 12 - Top Left:
 Top Left: *Kansas Express* (Guy Anderson, Don Suffron, Ben McDaniel and Tom Elefson)
 Top Middle: *Tone-Henge* (Dan Henry, Keith Schweer, Bruce Wenner, Jim Bagby);
 Top Right: *12th Street Rag* (John Fortino, Mark Fortino, Barry Moore, Micah Jeppeson);
 Middle of page: *Elvis* (Rob Matthieu) surprises the chorus and their director, Jim Bagby;
 A - *Southern Belles* - Blue Springs South High School; B - *Oakie Doakies* - Park High South High School;
 C - *Broadway Bound* - Pioneer Trail Jr. High, Olathe; D - *Almost Famous* - Pioneer Trail Jr. High, Olathe;
 Bottom: Evening show with all guest quartets and other members on stage

Page 13
 Top: Beatrice Nebraska Chorus (*Homestead Harmonizers*) at the afterglow, led by Director Scott Spilker;
 Middle Left: *Quadio* (Rob Mathieu, Mike Troyer, Matt Moore, Grant Hunget);
 Middle Right: *Gotcha!* in front of plaque at the old Muehlbach Hotel Lobby, commemorating SPEBSQSA's 25th Anniversary in 1963;
 Bottom: *Gotcha!* 2004 Society International Quartet Champions perform at the Afterglow

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus · wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: APRIL, 1996:

There's a large picture on page 3 of the April 1996 *Harmonotes* of almost all of the people who participated in the near record setting third annual "Singing Valentines" campaign. I can count 49 individuals, but Coordinator **Monty Duerksen**, who refers to himself as the "Immediate Past Cupid Impersonator," reports in a separate article that the entire group, which fielded 17 quartets, consisted of 12 tenors, 11 leads, 12 baritones, 14 basses, five headquarters people, and six drivers. The photo caption revealed that 339 "Singing Valentines" were delivered, resulting in gross revenue of \$13,540.08 and a net profit of \$10,591.52. Wouldn't it be something if we could make quartets and operating personnel available to sell "Singing Valentines" on each of the 365 days out of the year? Whoeeee!

This issue of *Harmonotes* is replete with favorable comments for what must have been an incredibly successful annual show. Even your editor reported that a quick check of the audience from where he sat in the orchestra seats just before the curtain went up revealed only a few single empty seats. Chapter President **Don Young** congratulated Show Chairman **Mike Schumacher** and his committee for a performance that returned a profit that was roughly \$5,000 greater than was expected. And Music Director **Jim Bagby** referred to the show as "a landmark performance," although he threw in a quote by **John Wooden**, "arguably the most successful coach in college basketball history," who cautioned his players, "Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability," and went on to suggest "we treat the 1996 show as a stepping stone---and keep stepping." Lastly, Show Chairman Mike Schumacher had this to say, "Under the guidance of our wonderful music team---Director Jim Bagby, Assistant Directors **Darrel McCune**, and **Raymond Schwarzkopf**, and special guest directors **Dan Henry**, **Steve Leone**, and **David Krause**---our chorus proved that we're definitely capable of great things."



Ron McIntire

TWENTY YEARS AGO: APRIL, 1986

Rather than dig my April 1986 issue out of my *Harmonotes* collection, I thought I'd repeat an item we had included in the "Ten Years Ago" segment of the "Look at the Past" column in the April 1996 issue. This ought to be of interest to you members who joined the chapter during the past 20 years.

Marv Faulwell was the chairman of the show committee for the 1986 extravaganza, and *The New Tradition* was our headliner quartet. Here's how we described a near disaster while the program was in progress: "We seem to recall that that was the time when our guest quartet, *The New Tradition*, insisted on arriving on Saturday morning rather than the day before our show, but didn't show up until after the matinee curtain had gone up! (They had changed into their **Marx Brothers** costumes on the plane enroute from California.) This entailed a last-minute revision of the program (our three chapter quartets, the *K.C. Connection*, *Special Touch*, and the *RR-4*, had to stretch their performances by as much as 20 minutes...) so as to keep things going until the headliner could go on."

When we asked **Rich Huyck** for elaboration on his remark about the "longest show," he responded with the following:

"I dug out a video of the 1986 show. At 2:05 p.m. on that day, **Steve Leone** announced to the audience that *The New Tradition* quartet was delayed because of equipment problems with the airline. Steve said that they were expected to be at the Music Hall in time to appear on stage a little after 4 p.m. *The K.C. Connection* was called upon to fill a 20-minute slot prior to the intermission. *Special Touch* and *Rural Route 4* were already slotted for 10 and 20 minutes on the show and they expanded their programs to fill the time. One member of TNT (I think it was the bass) arrived just before intermission. The other 3 members got to the Music Hall fairly close to 4:10 p.m. and they were on stage right after *RR4* finished."

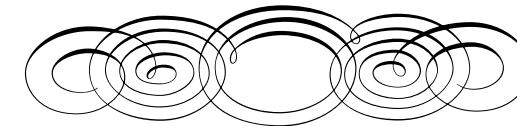
So that's how it was. At least the folks in the audience got their money's worth of barbershop harmony that afternoon.

FORTY YEARS AGO: MAY, 1966

In going back forty years ago for material for this segment of my column (yup, the April 1966 issue is missing from my collection, so I must go to May), I've often been amazed by the apparent degree of contention—put on, of course—that existed between Editor **Warren Edmonds** and everybody's pal, **Dan Henry Bowser**. ♦

For example, in the May 1966 issue, Warren reported that Dan had been picked as the "Barbershopper of the Year" for 1966 and that the award was presented to Dan at the annual Ladies' Night at the Muehlbach Hotel's Terrace Room. But Warren wasn't at all congratulatory in his remarks. He even went so far as to suggest that the selection committee members had all taken LSD prior to their deliberations and relied on the resulting "dream." And a fellow member by the name of **Doc Waterman** "was so mad at the outcome that he poured the bottle of formaldehyde he won for selling show tickets all over himself. No one can say Doc isn't well preserved now."

And the sad fact is that despite the degrading remarks Warren directed toward Dan in nearly every issue of *Harmonotes*, he never once permitted Dan to retaliate with remarks of his own. And we all know that he would have done a heck of good job, don't we? Oh, well, Warren did go so far as to report that the crowd at the function gave Dan a standing ovation. And maybe it's just as well that Warren announced his resignation as chapter bulletin editor elsewhere in the same issue. ♥



The Songs We Sing

From *The Heritage of Harmony Songbook*, edited by Burt Szabo, found in By-Lines, the St. Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin, John Conrad, Editor

"In the Good Old Summertime"

1902 was a banner year for songwriters, but easily the best song of that year was one written by a Chicago-born vaudevillian, **Ren Shields** and **George "Honey Boy" Evans**, a Welshman, who was one of the era's outstanding blackface performers.

Because of its seasonal title, they had difficulty finding a publisher, until Blanche Ring, a singing star, introduced it to New York audiences. It was an immediate sensation and has continued as one of America's best loved close-harmony songs. Its uncomplicated harmonic pattern makes it fun and easy to harmonize, as proved by every impromptu gathering at any season of the year. ♥

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.
— Confucius

Wanna Save \$27.20?

by Stew Grosser, VP for Chapter Development



Ron McIntire

Did I get your attention? I hope so. I did say \$27.20, because that is how much you save bringing in one new member from your 2007 total dues. This is all part of the 100% Club that our National Society initiated this year. We have until Dec. 31, 2006 to bring in new members. That is over 8 months long to continually try to bring a friend, family member, or even a

previous guest brought last year. It takes perseverance and patience to get the job completed. Those people you sold on coming to our annual show would be the first place to look. They know our sound and good male singers want to be part of good fun singing. Get your guest to a Guest Night first, then let me know if you will need help in getting him aboard.

Now back to the numbers. 2 new members gets you \$54.40 deducted from your 2007 dues. If you get 100% you will get special recognition from your Barbershop Harmony Society. There are no set guidelines on what a new member might look like. It could be your pizza delivery man or someone working in a bank. Doctors sing and we all know that. Anyhow you get the point. Good luck! ♥

Quadrio debuts at Annual Show Afterglow

Good thing we didn't have to follow *Tone-Henge* at the Annual Show Afterglow on March 25th! They were in top-notch form for sure! Or wait a minute, is that possible?

With Prelims a month away, it was great to sing for such a great crowd at our first official gig. Prior to Iowa City, we'll be singing at the HOA & St Joe Chapter Meetings, plus taking 1-day tour of Schools in order to get some more rep's. with our Contest numbers.

We'll put better Bio's in a future issue. Briefly, for those of you who don't know us:

Rob Mathieu/Tenor, aka, "Elvis" - Barely missed INTL cutoff with *Grandstand* last year.

Michael Troyer/Lead - member, St Joe & Liberty Chapters. Most recently sang with *The Buzz*.

Matt Moore/Bass - The oldest guy in our Quartet. Has been to International multiple times, reaching as high as 15th with *Special Touch* in 1985.

Grant Hunget/Bari - Most recently sang with *Take 4*, 2005 CSD Champ.

See you in Iowa City!! ♥



Barbershopper Of The Month



February: Marlin Weidler

In grateful appreciation for your efforts and hard work to make the 2006 Heart of America Singing Valentine program a resounding success! ♥



February: Al Higgins

In grateful appreciation for your efforts, hard work and dedication to the youth of Kansas City to make the 2006 Harmony Explosion program a great success! ♥

Xtra Mile Award



February: Jerry Meier

In recognition for your work in organizing the coaching and motivation of student quartets who participated in the 2006 Harmony Explosion to improve their singing skills! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

- April 7 **Raymond Schwarzkopf**
- April 10 **Matt Bostick**
- April 11 **Frank Leone**
- April 14 **Chris Meeks**
- April 14 **Bob Howard**
- April 17 **Mike Mathieu**
- April 21 **Richard Krueger**
- April 21 **Tom Elefson**
- April 24 **Marlin Weidler**
- April 25 **Bruce Wenner**
- April 28 **Mike McKim**

Board of Directors March 2006 Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary/Ron McIntire

TREASURER: Ron Fortino

Operating fund as of 3/09/06 was \$25,190.50

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE: Keith Schweer

- Show Qualifications are taking longer than usual due to more difficult music. Seven people did not qualify for the show.
- Next performance will be May 13 in Richmond, MO.

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

- Guest night still on schedule for April 4. It will start at 5:30 p.m., cooking begins at 5 p.m. Royals tickets will be given away, courtesy of **Harvey Shapiro**.
- **Robert Tipton** accepted as a new member.
- **Dylan Mathieu** (son of **Joe Mathieu**) accepted as a new member.

OLD BUSINESS:

Singing Valentines – **Marlin Weidler**

- Financial Results
Total revenue: \$10,956
Proceeds to Children's Mercy Hospital: \$2,308.67
Net proceeds to HOA: \$6,406.02
- The Liberty chapter did not deliver any Singing Valentines.
- Checks will be presented to Children's Mercy Hospital and Sweet Adelines on April 4.
- Sales of the candy left over from the Singing Valentines will be added to the riser fund.

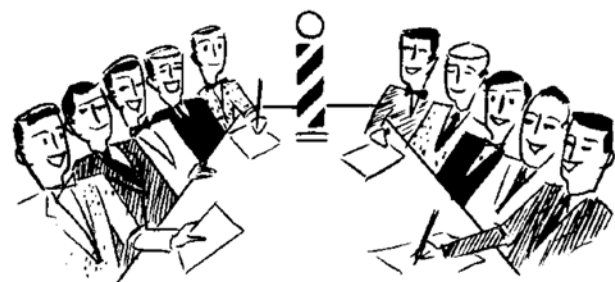
New CD project: Doug Brott

Two recording dates have been set at White Recital Hall on the UMKC campus:

- (a) 2-5pm, May 21, 2006
- (b) 6-8pm, June 4, 2006

Risers

HOA will lend our risers to the Sweet Adelines for their spring competition April 9 and April 10. ♥



Command Performance Pleased To Be Part Of HOA's Wonderful 60th Annual Show!

by Rich Huyck, for Command Performance



Above: Command Performance members **Carter Combs, Jon Gathright, Monty Duerksen and Rich Huyck** sing a song at the Afterglow in the old Muehlebach Hotel lobby

The quartet has been focusing on preparing for the HOA show. And what a show it was!

Along the way we had the opportunity for some coaching with **David Harrington**, lead of the 1989 International Champs, *Second Edition*. We are trying to implement some of the wisdom that David imparted to us and hopefully some of it showed in our performance on March 25.

We tried our hand-held mikes again this year on the matinee, and while we can claim a valiant attempt at battling with technology, technology won! Hence we discarded the hand-helds for the evening show and we were pleased with the result.

Added to the challenge of preparing for the show was the fun of hosting the *Gotcha!* Quartet while they were in town. They are really great guys and easy to work with. **Carter** and **Jeffi** prepared a couple of welcome goodie bags which they really appreciated. Thanks are due to **Don Fuson**, who loaned them his car so that they could get away for lunch at Gate's Barbecue. They first went to Arthur Bryants, but the customers were lined up out on the street, so they led the overflow crowd to Gate's.

Well, the next focus for *Command Performance* is our first foray into the International quartet prelims in Iowa City and we actually have a couple of contest songs whipped into shape and we are working on some others just in case!

Congratulations to the entire HOA team for an outstanding, maybe best ever, annual show! ♥

Tone-Henge Says, "Thanks For The Memory"

by Ol' Dan



Tone-Henge was delighted with the opportunity to be a part of the super HOA show March 25! It was a landmark occasion for each of us; the most fun since we can't remember when. Of course we can't remember lots of things nowadays, but that doesn't dilute that memory of delightfully gracious audience response when all goes better than four old coots deserve.

And may the one "Henge-er" that isn't a part of the chorus can add this: I've never heard you sing a better show!...and my memory of a half-century of HOA shows is clear! You guys were inspired! So, it wouldn't hurt *Tone-Henge's* feelings to do it all again. Say like, next Saturday? ♥

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



I had a great time this past Saturday on our annual show! I don't think the chorus has ever sung as well as we did on that show (especially the basses – I'm partial you know). Next to the audience and the director I have just about the best seat in the house, and I wanna tell ya it really sounded good – a big, resonant, exciting, 'tight-together' sound. I could also feel the physical energy wash over me as the entire chorus climbed inside the songs and sent them across the footlights into the audience. You don't mind the work when the results are that good!

Speaking of that, I want to brag on the Music Team! I would put our team up against any in the Society. Starting with **Jim** and our directors, section leaders, presentation team, librarian, uniform chairman...these men provide an extraordinary amount of time and energy to HOA, which we genuinely appreciate.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention **EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF THE CHORUS!** Without the efforts of everyone from **JIM** down through the newest member of the chorus the show wouldn't have been as successful. I'm proud to be a member of the *Heart of America Chorus*. ♥

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES: APRIL 19**

FOCAL POINT: Up Close And Personal!

by Wade Dexter



Ron McIntire

You know, it's not unusual to find a dedicated barbershopper who possesses talent, skills, and training in areas other than his singing ability that can be put to good use in the operation of a barbershop chapter. An example in our case is veteran HOA member **Marv Faulwell**, whose performance on the massive pipe organ at the Music Hall prior to the opening curtain of our show last month was a significant contribution

which certainly enhanced the overall success of the venture. Our subject for this month is another member who has the education and experience in a field that serves the chapter well when needed. But more about that in a moment.

Phil Youngs was born, raised, and educated in Bethany, MO. After graduating from Bethany High School, he went on to Northwest Missouri State University at Maryville where he graduated with a degree in financial management, which qualified him for a position in investment banking at UMB where he's been employed for 36 years. Oh, and by the way, it was at NWMSU that he met his lovely wife, **Leslie**. They were married upon graduation and moved to Kansas City, where they raised their two children, a daughter and a son who, tragically, was taken by cancer at the age of 28. With pride in his voice, Phil tells how their daughter, who is a William Jewel graduate, sings with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus.

Phil described—in a 45-minute telephone conversation—how his first exposure to the barbershop style of singing came when he was in the seventh grade and he and his dad attended the annual show of the Bethany chapter. He recalls vividly the hilarious performances by the *Merry Mugs* and the *Hawkeye Four*, plus the *Kippers* (he wonders if **Ken Gabler** is still singing "Easy Street"). He retained an interest in our hobby until he finally joined HOA in 1977. And that's another story.

Right now, I want to describe Phil's interesting musical background. He played the trumpet and drums and organized a pep band when he was still in middle school. He gained more band experience, including another pep band, in high school, and also sang in high school choirs and played the piano as accompaniment for vocal groups. I recall that he once played a bit on the piano—I believe it was *The 12th Street Rag*—on one of our shows several years ago. He says that his dad liked to sing, especially barbershop, but was so active in the community, he never felt he had time to join the Society.

And as with most barbershoppers, Phil joined the Kansas City chapter under unique circumstances. It seems that Leslie, who was teaching English at Raytown High School at the time, had a student in one of her classes by the name of **Kim Lefholz**. Way ahead of me, aren't you? Well, be patient. Inevitably, the subject of barbershop singing came up in their casual conversations, and Kim remarked to Leslie that her dad, name of **Gil Lefholz** (sound familiar?) was a barbershop singer and a member of the Kansas City chapter of SPEBSQSA. And in time, as a result of interaction between Leslie's students and their families (that would include Mr. Lefholz), the Youngs and the Lefholzes became acquainted. And Mr. Lefholz, ever on his toes, recognized the possibility of picking up a highly talented prospect for chapter membership. The invitation was issued and received and the bug bit, and Mr. Youngs began what turned out to be a 28-year membership with HOA.

But wait, there's more! It wasn't very long after Phil became one of us that he was presented with the opportunity to demonstrate his versatility in matters financial by becoming a member of the chapter board as our treasurer. In that capacity, it was his responsibility to receive and dispense funds generated by chapter activities, which included the annual show. Not only that, whenever our chapter was selected to host one of the two annual district conventions, Phil automatically assumed the same functions according to CSD policies. And as you've probably already guessed, this became Phil's job as a member of the local steering committee during each of the two international conventions hosted by HOA in 1974 and 1989. So weren't we fortunate to have a banker who could take care of the money situation in each case?

Many of us who have sung with the *Heart of America Chorus* in district and international contests cherish those memories the most of all our barbershopping experiences. For Phil, the first time HOA beat St. Joe and won the Central States District trophy in 1978 particularly stands out, followed by the trip to Minneapolis the following summer to represent CSD at the international level. He took his dad with him so he could learn all about barbershop contests. He was especially moved by the church service on Sunday morning after the contest in Salt Lake City in 1986 (that was when the *Rural Route 4* won the gold medal).

Finally, there's an item on the questionnaire that we send to prospective subjects for this column that asks whether there's something about him that would surprise people if they knew it. Here's how Phil answered it: "They'd be surprised to know that I still have my 1968 Honda motorcycle. Leslie and I dated on it while we were in college. I didn't own a car until we graduated and moved to Kansas City." I'm surprised he's still all in one piece after riding the darn thing for 38 years! ♥

Where Are They Now? by Wade Dexter

Having been blessed (or cursed) with a boundless curiosity, I simply had to ask our featured subject for this month's article how he got the nickname of "006." His reply was, "Well, you've heard of 007, haven't you?" I said yes, and he went on, "Well, I was 006, I wasn't as good as he was. Probably should have been 002." I was laughing so hard I never did find out how he got the monicker.



Ron McIntire
Clarence Bond

It's good to know that 86-year-old ex-HOA member **Clarence Bond** hasn't lost his sense of humor. Born, raised, educated, and still living alone (his wife, **Lolita**, passed away two years ago) in Kansas City, KS, Clarence attended Wyandotte High School and Kansas City, KS. Community College. He took an interest in vocal music, mostly chorus and choir, from the seventh grade through junior college. However, most of this music was of the gospel genre, and Clarence doesn't remember when he acquired an interest in the barbershop style.

Nor does he recall the circumstances surrounding his joining the Society and the Kansas City chapter back in 1981. He became inactive in 1992, but not until he'd played a part in the organization of the Harmony Handful, the mini-chorus that was formed to respond to requests for a music program that couldn't be supplied by the HOA chorus itself. He was a *Harmonotes* contributor for the activities of the group.

He does recall (who could forget it) singing "That Old Gang of Mine" with the chorus at the international contest in Detroit in 1981 when HOA finished in sixth place, "just ten points short of fifth place" and the medals. Clarence told me that after HOA had sung the song, some of the judges were crying. (It always leaves a lump in my throat, too.)

And Clarence clearly remembers singing with the *Harmony Handful* for the Sunday morning church services at the convention in Detroit and again in Kansas city in 1989. *The Rural Route 4* were on the same program in each case.

So Clarence is living alone, enjoying good health and his retirement after 40 years of working as a railroad switchman. He amuses himself by playing the electronic organ, and is learning how to play the Auto Harp. (That's a stringed instrument that can be strummed like a guitar with buttons to press to give you the chords—so I'm told.) And you'd be surprised (I was) to find that this 86-year-old ex-barbershopper is still singing solos on Sunday mornings at the church he attends. About every four or five weeks. Just goes to show, you're never too old to enjoy making good music. Hang in there, Clarence. ♥

A TIP OF THE HAT!

The Tip 'O The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members men and women who have made a contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter over the past month.

A big Tip 'O The Hat goes to a superb show committee: **Jerry Garrard** (Chairman), **Mike Mathieu** (Afterglow), **John Starcke** (Video), **Vince Perry** (Ticket Sales), **John Warrior** (Show Operations), **Joe Hart** (Sound), **Dick Korek** (Marketing), *Command Performance* (Quartet Hosts) and the *Heartbeats* (Show Lunch).

What a great job everyone did!

And because no show can succeed without risers, the guys who did the manhandling deserve their own Tip Of The Hat: **Chuck Ames, Jim Bagby, Bob Howard, Grant Hunget, Al Higgins, Mike O'Dell, Marty Oldehoeft, Walt Patterson, Vince Perry, Kevin Tritsch, Don Young, Mike Schumacher, Tom Forsythe** and **Tony Strub**.

Unsung, yet necessary to the success of the show Tip Of The Hat kudos go to the program stuffers: **Frazier Allen, Chuck Allen, Matt Bostick, Doug Brott, Tom Forsythe, Johnathan Fortino, Dick Korek, Chris Meeks, Walt Patterson, Brian Seydlitz, Phil Veltkamp** and **Don Young**. To the Music and Choreography teams our hats are gratefully tipped: Directors: **Jim Bagby, Mike Neff, Carter Combs** and **John Fortino**; Choreography: **Harry Schumacher, Mike Schumacher** and **Don Young**; Sign Handlers: **Bob Howard, Bob Rutherford** and **Marty Oldehoeft**; Tape evaluation: **Dennis Kinghorn, Mike Neff, Carter Combs** and **Grant Hunget**.

To the many others who, sadly, must go unnamed but nevertheless recognized for their work behind the scenes doing the myriad of small but important tasks that must be done, here's a Tip Of The Boller to you.

A Tip of the Hat to the 24 guys who sang at the funeral of **Carl**

Turlin's mother, March 27: **John Starcke, Don Fuson, Lud Einess, Ron McIntire, Al Higgins, Ron Abel, Jerry Snyder, Harry Stewart, Ron Fortino, Frazier Allen, Jon Gathright, Rich Huyck, Mike Neff, Jack Selby, Tony Strub, Walt Patterson, Tom Forsythe, Mike O'Dell, Chuck Ames, Bob Howard, Marty Oldehoeft, Vince Perry, Phil Veltkamp** and **Carter Combs**. ♥

