



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 11 - DECEMBER 2007

## Holiday Shows Loaded with Highs for Retiring HOA Arm-Waver

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



If a final public performance had been scripted for a chorus director, I can't imagine how it could have been any more complete or satisfying.

How about his *Heart of America Chorus* rising, literally, to produce the performance I've been dreaming about of "All Rise" and the first standing ovation (of several to come) on the evening show? **Mark Fortino** was as brilliant as he was inspired, and you guys matched him, in sound and emotion.

Getting to stand in front of the massed chorus once more was a delight, especially for "Joy to the World" and "Pretty Little Jesus," where **Grant Hunget** and the tag transported us into another level of holiday rapture. It was truly one of those moments, as **Dan Henry** says: "Take me now, Lord!"

It's an abundance of riches, talent and ego when one also gets to sing with two quartets on the show (well, talent may be stretching things a bit in the case of *Tone-Henge*—but we do have a great time!). The occasions that the *Rural Route 4* get together are rare, so performing for the "home" folks is a real treat. And getting that kind of reception on both the matinee and night show was something we won't forget. It was the first time in years we'd done "Mary Had a Baby;" I suspect we enjoyed it as much as the audience—although it's getting to be a real challenge for the aging baritone!

The *RR4* got more goosebumps when we had the privilege of closing out the super afterglow put together by **Jeffi** and **Carter**

**Combs**. As is usually the case, we were discussing right up until we were announced what we were going to sing. We'd had a long rehearsal scheduled Thursday night after tenor **Don Kahl** flew in from Arkansas, but that was somewhat curtailed when a Kansas City Star reporter showed up to interview us—and stayed for more than two hours. So we didn't get through all the songs we intended to rehearse. And we know we can't sing some of the songs we used to do.



So then my daughter unexpectedly showed up for the afterglow. **Kristin** and her family had not been able to come to the show, but were in town to attend the Raytown First Baptist Church Christmas cantata, directed for more than 25 years by her father-in-law, **Gene Calhoun**. Joann passed up a note and suggested "Lida Rose," another one we not had not practiced, and had not sung for years. We looked at each other and said "Why not?" and Kristin came up to wail on the "Dream of Now" obligato to earn us all another S.O. Whatta night. (Continued on page 2 ♡)

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# HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, Mo., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society®, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. 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

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
110th & Holmes · Kansas City, Mo. 64105

Chorus Director - **Jim Bagby**

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The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

Should you notice erroneous copy, please let the editor know!

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The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at the Johnson County Car License office, located at 6000 Lamar Avenue. Chapter members are welcome!

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## Holiday Shows Loaded with Highs for Retiring HOA Arm-Waver

(Continued from front cover)

Even had the *RR4* not sung well, spending any time around **Calvin** and **Willard Yoder** is the kind of experience that makes anyone—friend or stranger—come away with the feeling that people are good, and hey, life is really something. I think Don and I both told the Star reporter basically the same thing: because of the Yoders, getting into the *RR4* was the most life-changing experience in our barbershopping careers.

When it comes to friendships and support, you can't do much better than the *Tone-Henge* family. We're going on 10 years, and shaking away on the angklungs to **Dan Henry's** latest parody was another holiday show highlight.

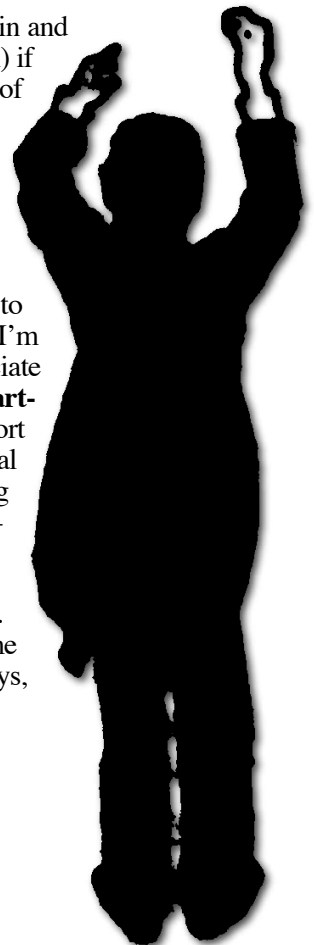
That was after **Bruce Wenner, Keith Schweer**, Dan and the *RR4* helped me make a five-minute change from overalls and work boots into the *T-H* white shirt and bow tie for our number. We just made it on both shows! Then Dan had more parodies for the afterglow, adding to our fun. *Yep, whatta night.*

*Did I mention there was a football game somewhere in there?* Boomer Sooner and we'll move on, with best wishes to all Big 12 teams in the bowls! I hope you'll join me in extending thanks and congratulations to holiday show co-chairmen **Kent McClean** and **Mary Olson** for ramrodding another highly successful venture.

Speaking of changing, I'd never have gotten in and out of all the outfits (seemed like a half-dozen) if Joann had not done her usual superlative job of planning and packing. She also had to sew up the tux pants that had been split so they'd fall off for the "Running Wild" contest finale. *Whatta gal!*

By now you can see there were more big, proud, emotional moments than I can begin to recount during the two shows on Dec. 1. I'm grateful for the work and support from associate director **Mike Neff** and assistant directors **Carter Combs** and **Jerry Garrard**, and the effort by the HOA chorus. Although it was my final public performance with you, I will be leading the Dec. 15 Salvation Army bell-ringing caravan—always a high point of the year.

I've save the most important detail for last. That was the number of guys who talked to me individually during the show weekend. Guys, the feeling is mutual. ♥







## Salvation Army Caroling Caravan II by Mike Mathieu



MATHIEU

It seems like a few short months ago that we had our first attempt at "Caroling Caravan I," but on Dec. 15, it will be the sequel, version number II. The format is similar to last year, basically because "if it isn't broken, why try to fix it?"

One small change we did make was the replacement of one location this year with one that we hope will generate more income for the Salvation Army. Other than that change, the locations are identical. **Bob Burdick** has made all of the contacts and the arrangements are complete.

**At 9 a.m.**, we assemble and warm-up at the Doubletree Hotel on College Boulevard. At 10 a.m., the bus must leave for our 10:15 performance at the Atriums. From there, we'll head to the Forum for an 11:15 performance. Then at 12:15, we'll perform at the Grand Court. After that performance, we'll eat our sack lunch, while en route to a 1:30 performance at the Town Village.

**At 2:30**, we'll sing at Kingswood. And our 3:30 performance at Silvercrest at Deer Creek will be the last one of the day.

A bus will be provided, and it'll be much less expensive than last year. Because of the short time that we're on the bus, we have decided to rent a school bus rather than the elaborate coach that we had last year. The cost is slightly more than 10% what a coach would have cost us.

If you're unable to make all of the locations, please feel free to join us at as many as you can. Our plan is to have as many as possible meet at the Doubletree, leave their cars there, and at the end of the day, the bus will return to that location for the final drop-off.

**Our uniform will be** black pants, black comfortable shoes, long-sleeved white shirt—preferably with no but-

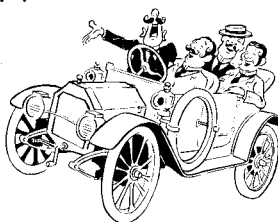
ton-down collar—red necktie and red vest. We're still working on the details of the bust-up party, and if you're interested in hosting the affair, all volunteers are welcome.

If you know of anyone who usually makes contributions to the Salvation Army, encourage them to give the donation to you, and we'll be able to add it to our collection total for that day. Last year we raised \$4,800, and this year we hope to exceed that total. We've taken flyers to all of our locations, and made the residents aware of the fact that we will be asking for donations to the Salvation Army.

All retirement homes have said that we may bring guests to our performances, so if you know residents at any of the locations, please feel free to stop in and listen to one of our sets.

If your company offers "matching gifts," please submit your request for that matching gift right away, so the gift is received before the "Bellingring" deadline has arrived. That match will also be added to our fund-raising total, but only if it's received prior to the deadline.

Thanks for being a part of this great fund-raising effort that has been such a fulfilling part of the *Heart of America Chorus* for almost sixty years. I'll have a complete schedule and information sheets available both on-line and at our meeting site, beginning at the meeting of Dec. 4. A large part of our performances will be out of the green and white Christmas books, so if you have not been able to be with us on a regular basis of late, feel free to come and refresh your singing skills and join in the fun. Hope to see you all on the 15th. ♥



## HOA Director Search Update

by Doug Brott, Chairman  
Director Search Committee



BROTT

The director search committee has worked hard to find applicants with the desired background to take over for the esteemed **Jim Bagby**. The end of November finds us interviewing our four best candidates. From those four we will choose two or three candidates who will audition in front of the chorus, starting Dec. 4.

Based on the committee interviews, the chorus auditions and feedback from chorus members, we plan, if all goes well, to choose a new director who will take HOA "On to the Future." Wish us all good luck, please. ♥

## HOA FIRST CLASS

**Hi Jim:**

Why didn't you tell me how good the Christmas programs were? It's all your fault that I've never been before last Saturday. All kidding aside, it was tremendous and **Gene** even went so far as to get good seats.



I love your venue—Unity is beautiful! Such a feeling of peace on the campus. And, they even have a Starbucks coffee house.

I will note on my calendars each year the first Saturday in December. Great, great job!

**Linda Hall**



## HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR 2007!

*Jim Bagby (with back to you) directing the combined Heart of America and Kansas City Sweet Adelines Chorus*

*TOP-NOTCH was...TOP NOTCH!*

*L to R: Daniel Fortino, Steven Duncan, Anthony Fortino and Johnathan Fortino*

*COMMAND PERFORMANCE*

*L to R: Carter Combs, Jon Gaithright, Monte Duerksen and Rick Huyck*

*4 SCORE: (L to R) Brad Dawdy, Mike O'Dell, Kent Miller and Doug Brott*

*ZING!*

*L to R: Michelle Hunget, Susan Ives, Melynnie Williams and Karen Koch*

*RURAL ROUTE 4*

*L to R: Jim Bagby, Willard Yoder, Calvin Yoder and Don Kahl*

*TONE-HENGE with their anklungs!*

*L to R: Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Dan Henry and Bruce Wenner*

*Santa  
(Mike Owen)  
paid a visit!*

Show photos courtesy of Dick Korek and Linda Fuson

## A Very Merry *Tone-Henge* Christmas by Ol' Bruce



WENNER

**Tone-Henge** has had an up-and-down month. The high points were centered around the "Holiday Show." Preparing for our quartet's part in the show with our new toys—those wooden chimes called anklungs—man, sometime you ought to try shaking the right anklung while singing your part—roasting some Sweet Adelines at the afterglow with our "Chocolate Whiskey" number and best of all, spending lots of quality time with one of the most revered Barbershoppers in the world, **Burt Szabo**.

Burt visited Kansas City to hear the chorus perform his "Night Before Christmas" number. He came in Wednesday before the show and didn't leave till Monday. He stayed with **Dan** and **Estyl** and the quartet, and the *Hengettes* got to see a lot of him. If you like to sing tags, you can't pick a better guy than Burt to hang out with.

**Now for the low point.** We have to pass on the sad news—you will not be able to hear *Tone-Henge* in international competition this year. I know, it's a big disappointment to us, too. With *Max Q* out of the way, we were ready to make the big push from the depths of CSD to the gold in Nashville.

But then our bari did a most inconsiderate thing. Ol' **Jim** worked his way to the top of the Presentation Category, so now he will be judging at Nashville. *The nerve!* Oh, well, we might have had trouble anyway beating **Jim Henry's** new quartet. Just wait 'til next year. (We'll find another excuse.) ♥







## They Came from All Over by Jim Bagby

The fame and appeal of our Holiday Spectacular has grown far and wide. I bet that members of our two chapters could provide an impressive list of visitors from out of the area. But I know of some special guests we had Dec. 1.

Barbershopper **Ron Gilbert**, 95, a fellow retired Associated Press newsman, flew from Indiana with his 91-year-old friend, **Elberta**. Ron's son, **Bruce**

**Gilbert**, lives in Lenexa, Kan., and they have been to *HOA* shows before.

The longest drive for a show patron may have been undertaken by 77-year-old **Mary Wade** of Durant, in far southeastern Oklahoma. She was a member of the *Lawton-Elgin Chorus of Sweet Adelines* I directed in the mid-1960s, and her daughter **Jackie**, then 14, was the best bass in the chorus. We have stayed in

touch, and when she learned this was my final show, she determined to come.

They arrived Saturday with some of Jackie's daughters and granddaughters in tow, and Jackie sang tags with us at the afterglow.

Of course, my mother, **Peggy**, now 82, from Norman, Okla.; seldom misses our shows; this time she was accompanied by my sister, **Nancy Nortz**, from Oklahoma City, and my brother, **Ron**, from Empire, Colo. Nancy is a front-row member of the perennial Region 25 Sweet Ad champion *Oklahoma City Chorus*, and Ron is bass of the *Bagby Brothers* quartet, and unofficial president of the Colorado branch of the *Rural Route 4* fan club. ♥

## From a Honk to a Quack by Tony Strub, HOA President



STRUB

At the 2007 installation banquet, **Don Fuson** used a very creative

metaphoric procedure to present the new board of directors to our chapter. Beginning with the president, we were all called, one at a time, to the front and were required to give an audible "HONK" as we took our positions in a flying wing formation like a flock of geese heading south for the winter. From that point on for the remainder of the evening, our MC **Don Young** and many of my friends referred to me as the "HEAD HONKEE."

In my remarks that evening, I asked our members to take a close look at our calendar for 2007. It was very clear that our chapter was in for a very busy and challenging year. With "Singing Valentines," "Harmony Explosion," six shows, eight performances, a retreat, two competitions, a golf tournament, a picnic, hosting the CSD fall convention and the "Bell Ringing Caravan," there would be no down time for *HOA* in '07.

I want to thank and congratulate our board of directors, music team, chorus manager, all of our project and event chairmen, show chairmen, our "Heartbeats" and the many members who stepped forward with hard work and expertise to help make all of these activities and achievements hap-

pen so successfully. It has truly been a privilege for me to work with such wonderful people. What a year! *Well done, HOA!*

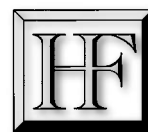
Sadly, **Jim Bagby** will retire as the director of our chorus at the end of this year. He'll take a short hiatus from *HOA* activities and return to us in the early spring. It's going to be a big change for us. Jim's leadership will be missed.

I choose not to look at change with fear and anxiety, but to see it as an opportunity. I'm very optimistic about the future of our chapter. We can expect some adjustments and a few bumps in the road. But we have the leadership, expertise and talent to do well.

I would like to challenge all of our members to return to the risers in 2008 and support our new director, music team and board of directors in the pursuit of our chapter mission. The most important ingredient to our future success will be YOU.

I want to thank the members of *HOA* for the opportunity to serve as chapter president these last two years. As I assume my status as a short-timer and begin to limp and quack my way through December, I know that I'll miss the challenges that come with being president. But I'm looking forward to the additional discretionary time to perhaps improve my golf game. Well, I can dream, can't I? ♥

## Harmony Foundation Report



by Jim Porter



PORTER

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is des-

ignated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

As of Wednesday, Nov. 14, 53 drawings for the year:

- The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$158.
- The total raised for the year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$2,290.
- Last year, the total raised for the year was \$4,500.
- In 2005, the total raised for the year was \$2,407.

The new year has begun, 2 drawings so far have raised \$85. ♥

# CRAFT CORNER

## Get Your B.A. in S.P.!

by Carter Combs, VP, Music & Performance



COMBS

**B**arbershop-ers who have been around for —ahem—a few years hear “S.P.” and immediately think “Stage Presence.” Based on recommendations made by our own Kansas City Chapter president, **Joe Stern**, **Stage Presence** has been an official part of our contests since 1942. This judging category has been reworked several times since then and was renamed “Presentation” in 1993.

All the judging categories now emphasize and reward the concept of “believability.” That means making all aspects of the performances work together to tell a vocally and visually consistent story. In Stage Presence, we use moves and facial expressions as our “blunt instruments.” Our audiences react to both those overt actions and to our much more subtle body language throughout our performance. In other words, Stage Presence 101 is “Believable Body Attitude.”

**The term “S.P.”** is also often heard currently when working on moves for a song. The choreographer or presentation coach will often say something like “do blah-de-blah, then back to SP.” In this context, it’s a reference to both “Singing Posture” and “Standard Position.” This is our default stance—how we appear the majority of our time on stage and so must be executed extremely well by every member of the ensemble.

How we position our body must not only look good, but should also assist in our vocal production. Let’s build the singing posture, working from the ground up.

**Your feet** should be about shoulder width apart, at a comfortably open angle, with your outside foot slightly ahead of the other. This provides maximum support and balance, serving as the firm foundation.

**Your knees** should be kept loose so you can easily flex, dip or sway while providing stability for the upper body.

**Your hips** should be horizontal and parallel to the floor. Resting your body on one hip by placing all your weight over one locked knee gives the impression of sloppy laziness and contorts the torso.

**Your torso** should sit comfortably over your hips to allow free movement of your diaphragm. Resist the temptation to “improve” your physique by sucking in your gut. This looks artificial and limits breath support.

**Your chest** should be lifted slightly, as if being pulled up by the breastbone. This expands the ribcage and allows maximum use of the lungs.

**Your shoulders** should be pulled back slightly, which also expands the ribcage. Your arms can hang loosely down your sides, and your hands should be kept comfortably open and loose. This is visually critical, as it opens the body, representing and welcoming honesty.

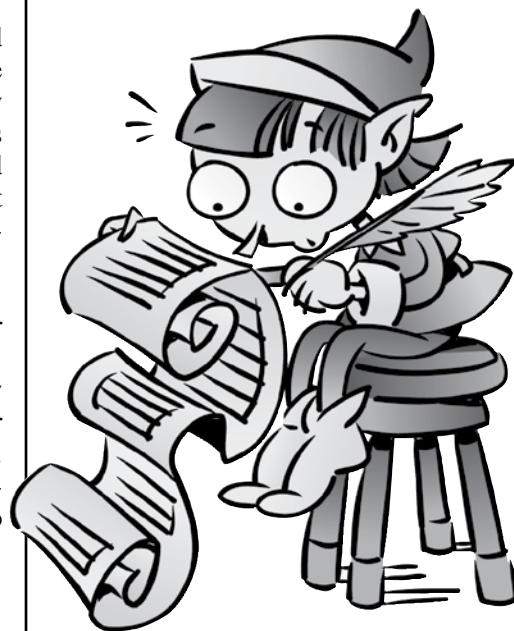
Your neck rests squarely above your shoulders without tension. Your head sits easily on top of the neck, with jaw parallel to the floor. Do not thrust your jaw forward or pull your head back. The goal is to provide an unobstructed, relaxed passage for air to flow to and from your lungs.

**Your face** should be mobile. Keeping the same expression for very long indicates to your audience that your mind and emotions are not engaged, so they quickly lose interest. The observed tilt of the head and facial expression are key indicators in body language, which are the subject of entire books, so we won’t delve into that this month.

Now, allow your body to press just slightly forward. This will put your weight over the balls of your feet, allowing you to lift one or both your heels off the floor.

Executed properly and consistently, this stance supports optimal vocal production. An added benefit is that your body language radiates confidence and competence. As with any other skill, this SP should be practiced at all times, during all rehearsals and performances.

So you can achieve a better Body Attitude by using proper Singing Posture, resulting in a Believability Adjustment in your Stage Presence. **In short, get your B.A. in S.P.!** ♥





Todd Anderson

December 1	Jeff Clymore
December 2	Chris Kinghorn
December 7	Jim Davis
December 7	Dennis Taylor
December 9	Ron Fortino
December 10	John Warrior
December 16	Val Putzier
December 17	Steve Duncan
December 17	Bill Wheeler
December 23	Jeremy Kaat
December 24	Darrell McCune
December 28	Mike Louque
December 30	Grant Hunget

## A Tribute to Bob Hope - Thanks for the Memories!

**ON TURNING 70:** "You still chase women, but only downhill."

**ON TURNING 80:** "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

**ON TURNING 90:** "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

**ON TURNING 100:** "I don't feel old. In fact I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

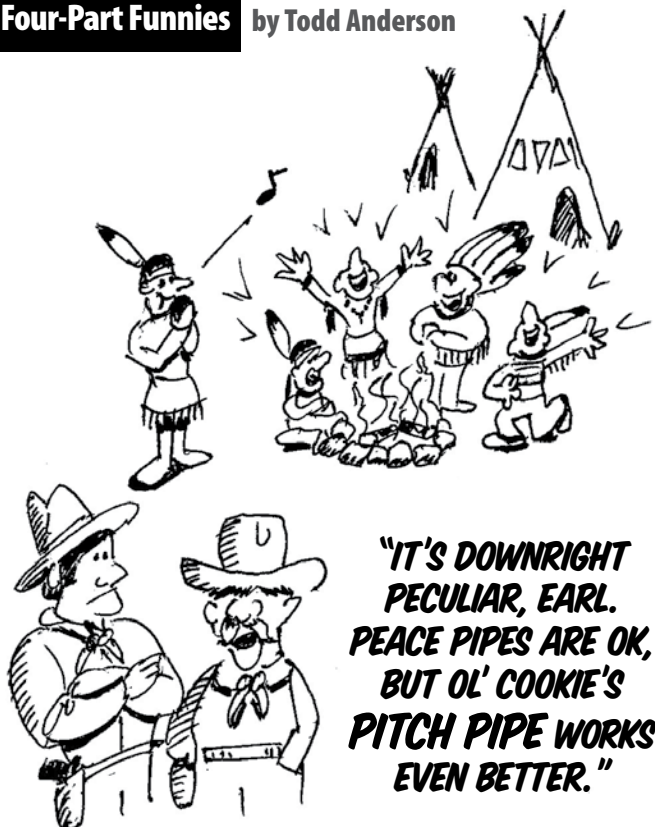
**ON GIVING UP HIS EARLY BOXING CAREER:** "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

**ON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL:** "I feel very humble, but I think I have the strength of character to fight it." ♥



*Top Notch quartet members sang for HOA on Nov. 20 and performed on the Dec. 1 Holiday Harmony Spectacular. From left to right, Top Notch is comprised of Daniel Fortino, tenor; Steven Duncan, lead; Anthony Fortino, bass, and Johnathan Fortino, bari. Photo courtesy of Don Fuson*

## Four-Part Funnies by Todd Anderson



**"IT'S DOWNRIGHT PECULIAR, EARL. PEACE PIPES ARE OK, BUT OL' COOKIE'S PITCH PIPE WORKS EVEN BETTER."**

ANDERSON  
© 2007

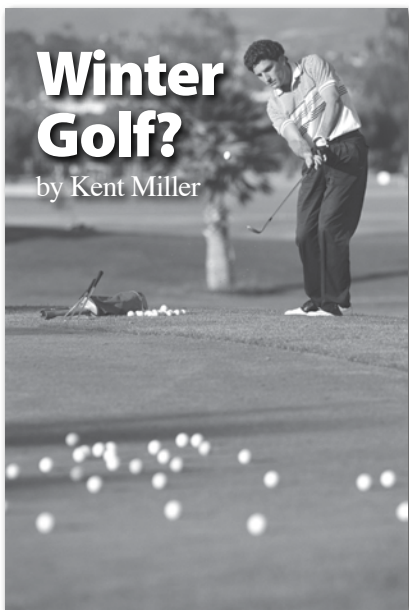




## Winter Golf?

by Kent Miller

PhotoDisc



**What? Time to think about golf again?** Well, in the northern hemisphere, golfers play golf in the spring, the summer and the fall, and think about golf in the winter. Winter is when golfers come up with lines like, "Man blames fate for all other accidents, but feels personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one."

However, it's time for all *Heart of America* members to start thinking about golf,

because we have already scheduled the Second Annual *Heart of America* Golf Scramble for April 26, 2008. April 26 is a Saturday, deliberately scheduled to accommodate those of you who could not get off work in 2007 to participate. As in 2007, the entry fee will include green fees, cart, range balls, player gifts, door prize tickets, flight prizes, hole prizes and a burger buffet. You'll also have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win many additional prizes.

Counting hole prizes, door prizes and raffle prizes, participants in our 2007 tournament walked away with an amazing \$1,700 in prizes! I am confident that we'll be able to equal or exceed that number next year.

We have already made some changes based on our first experience, but I welcome any ideas you may have for the April event. Please e-mail me at [kmiller268@aol.com](mailto:kmiller268@aol.com) with any suggestions.

The most important change we made is that we are issuing a challenge to all other barbershop chapters in the area to enter a foursome(s) and compete for a traveling trophy. We will send a flyer to each chapter with the details, but I encourage members of other chapters who are reading this to send me your e-mail address to make sure you are included on our list for information. I should point out that, while this is a public event, and many non-Barbershoppers will participate, the teams competing for the barbershop trophy must be members of your chapter.

Remember, this event is open to everyone, and we encourage you to spread the word now so that people can mark their calendars. Start arranging your foursomes now! ♥

## All Active and Inactive Members, I Want You to Begin Thinking!

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



**"28 in 08!"** This stands for our goal for new members. I'd like to see, by this time next year, at least 28 new members—they can also be inactive members that become active—on the risers. I believe this is a very "doable" goal, but it'll not be met until all our members get behind it, and bring in the guests!

Most of us had 'nightcaps' (not the drinking kind) that we used for the Holiday Show, so put them back on in January and use them as 'thinking caps' to come up with men to bring in as guests.

**Another important note concerning 2008:** This is our Society's 70th anniversary year. The theme by the Society is a *Nashville Homecoming*. I have already 'tapped' some of you on the shoulder and asked to be on a committee to develop a very important Home Coming for all past members from the earliest years to today. I will also be 'tapping' more shoulders because we need a large committee so we can make sure this will be a very big event.

We have had the following guests during November:

**Rick Hershey**, from the *Cody Choraliers*.

**Kevin Fulcher**, from Eudora, Kans.

**Mike Templer**, from Overland Park, Kans.

**Mike Powers**, from Warrensburg, Mo.

Remember, most guests come through our doors with your help. *Think 28 in 08!* ♥



**From left to right: Mike Templer, Rick Hershey, Michelle McIntire, Mike Powers and Membership VP Bob Murphy**  
Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



# SUNSHINE REPORT

by Roy Manade



**Bob Burdick's** wife, **Sandy**, recently underwent successful knee replacement surgery. Bob tells me everything went well and she was expecting to be at the Christmas show. Sandy had her other knee replaced about a year

and a half ago. To quote **Ron McIntire's** sweatshirt, "New knees is good knees." ♥

## The Songs We Sing

compiled by Wade Dexter

Source: Jimmy McHugh, by Michael Feinstein

Photo courtesy of All Music Guide



**Jimmy McHugh** was born in Boston on July 10, 1894. He had an early interest in music, instilled by his mother. This enabled him to promote himself and his work and helped him to land a job working for the Irving Berlin Music Company in Boston. Shortly thereafter, he moved to New York and began working for the Mills Music Company. After heading the

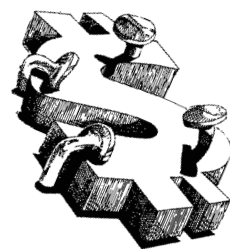
professional office to exploit the music of others, he finally became a full-time composer.

It was during this period that he discovered his first long-time collaborator, **Dorothy Fields**, from St. Joseph, Mo. She became the most successful female songwriter of the twentieth century and, with McHugh, created such hits as "Don't Blame Me," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "I'm in the Mood for Love" and "I Feel a Song Coming On."

McHugh's other principal collaborators included **Frank Loesser**, **Johnny Mercer** and **Al Dubin**, all throughout the 1940s. Although motion pictures dominated his output, he did also find time to score three Broadway musicals: "Keep Off the Grass" (1941), "Star and Garter" (1942) and "As the Girls Go" (1949). Song hits during this period included "A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening" (written for **Frank Sinatra**), "South American Way" (written for **Carmen Miranda**) and "It's a Most Unusual Day" (written for **Jane Powell**).

Up until his death in 1969, McHugh was a very visible presence in Hollywood and New York, often receiving honors and awards as well as attending every major Hollywood event with his steady date, **Louella Parsons**. ♥

# HOA Financial Corner



by Kent Miller



**HOA** now has a financial committee made up of members who are in some way associated with financial planning for individuals and businesses. Your board of directors has been discussing the Heart of America Foundation—formed by **David Hokanson**—which I'm confident few of you knew existed. I wasn't aware of it until a few months ago. The board asked me to form a committee to investigate and report on the Foundation.

The current committee members are **Mike Mathieu**, **Harvey Shapiro**, **Don Young**, **Dave Stockard**, **Duane Lawson** and me.

Although the committee was formed specifically to deal with the Foundation, we have decided to expand it to include other financial considerations for members of **HOA**. Some of the items we will discuss will be:

- Foundation grants
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Gift annuities
- Deductibility of member expenses

We will expand on these and other subjects in *Harmonotes* in a column titled "HOA FINANCIAL CORNER"—if **Todd Anderson** will allow me to steal part of his "Craft Corner" title.

As a teaser, I learned at COTS that all expenses a member incurs by going to contests—travel, lodging, meals, etc.—are tax deductible as a charitable expense, if you itemize deductions. I was skeptical about this, but it was confirmed by my CPA. His only caution was that you must have good records of your expenses. I'm getting more information from the Central States District treasurer, and it'll be the first topic in the next *Harmonotes*.

If you have knowledge in these areas and would like to be a committee member, send an e-mail to **kmiller268@aol.com**. ♥

## Sponsors, Sponsors, Sponsors

Kansas City Convention & Visitors Bureau



by Dick Korek, Marketing & P.R. Vice-President



KOREK

It's all about recognition and being known in the community for helping worthwhile groups and causes. Why would a company or corporation want to give *HOA* financial help? Well, let's consider who we are and just how we help our community and the greater metropolitan area.

As a member of an international Singing/performing organization, the Barbershop Harmony Society, *HOA* performs throughout the country carrying the proud banner of Kansas City.

- *HOA* offers men of all ages the opportunity to develop their talents to sing/perform four-part a cappella harmony.
- Members develop and improve their self-confidence and have the opportunity to perform for audiences in the thousands.
- Workshops are offered annually for teachers and students.
- *HOA* uses its talents to raise money for the Salvation Army and Children's Mercy Hospital.
- *HOA* is instrumental in bringing the Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, over 10,000 people from all over the country and eight foreign countries, to the Kansas City area. 2011 will mark the 6th Annual BHS Convention to be held in Kansas City, making this location the most popular in the world.

Now with all that information, everyone should be very confident about making a list of companies that the marketing team would approach to ask their support. Call or e-mail **Dick Korek** at 913-768-4747/[dkorek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkorek@sbcglobal.net). Remember, companies are very supportive of groups that help youngsters, our community and make people feel good. ♥

## The Law Was on Singers' Side

This "About Town" article, written by **G. Fred Wickman**, appeared in the Dec. 13, 1998 *Kansas City Times*

**Remind Orval H. Wilson** about barbershop singing Downtown during the Christmas holiday season and memories come rollicking back.

Let Wilson, a charter member of the *Heart of America Barber Shop Chorus*, tell you all about it. Let him tell you how members of the chapter here of the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America* would wheel that borrowed piano (from Jenkins Music Co.) along Walnut Street through crowds of holiday shoppers and office workers.

The singers' destination was the northeast corner of 11th and Walnut streets, near the Emery, Bird, Thayer department store. The guys would sing so nicely. And they would pass the bucket for the Salvation Army.

Wilson remembers his buddies going into the street with their collection buckets. Wilson was a cop then. He would show up and gruffly threaten to arrest the lot of them. And then Wilson would join in the singing in his police uniform.

And the piano player: Sometimes that was **Percy Franks**, who Wilson said would take off his shoes once in a while in the December chill and play the piano with his feet. Walnut Street, of course, was jammed in those days. People would lean out of windows to listen and send messengers down with money.

Relive those days, which began in the early 1940s, with a modern twist. The *Heart of America Barber Shop Chorus* will perform at 11 a.m., noon, 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Saturday at the Ward Parkway Shopping Center.

When not singing, the group will be ringing—bells, that is—to remind you to donate a little something to the Salvation Army. Not a bad way to spend a Saturday. Listen and then give. ♥







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



DEXTER

### **TEN YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1997**

In this column in the November *Harmonotes*, I mentioned a comment by Immediate Past President **Don Young** that each chapter member was “being asked to pay for your own registration” for the international convention at Atlanta the following year. I noted that at the bottom of Don’s article there was an editor’s note explaining that “the reason why the board can’t make any commitment now is that we still owe \$7,000 borrowed to pay for Indianapolis registrations.” One can’t but wonder who lent us the money, and were the members ever reimbursed for their expenditure.

Elsewhere there is a listing of the names of the newly elected chapter officers for 1998. I note that **Rich Huyck** was to become the music and performance vice president. Rick would be succeeding **Ron Abel**, who had held this position for the past eight consecutive years. Must be some kind of record.

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1987**

The big news in this issue of *Harmonotes* was the appointment of **David Krause** as the new director of the *Heart of America Chorus*. Action was taken at the Nov. 9 board meeting and would take effect immediately. Nowhere else was there an explanation as to why **Steve Leone**, who had been the music director for the past four years, was being replaced. During that period, the *Heart*

of *American Chorus* won the CSD chorus championship in 1984 and again in 1986.

*HOA* President **Marvin Faulwell** announced that an *ad hoc* committee had prepared a proposal for the establishment of a competition chorus. This action was taken because of the “need to free up Tuesday meeting time for more fun singing and less contest rehearsal, plus the need to demand a higher level of performance from the competition-oriented members.” The committee report covers almost the last two pages of this edition of *Harmonotes*. Marv was soliciting opinions from the membership. The proposal would be considered at the meeting of members of both the 1987 and 1988 boards in December.

Guess we’ll have to wait for the January 1988 *Harmonotes* to find out what happened to the proposal.

### **FORTY YEARS AGO: DECEMBER, 1967**

New member **Dave Larson** describes in an entire page in this issue how he became a Barbershopper. He said he’d been visiting with his neighbor, **Bob Coe**, a member of our chapter, and the conversation went to music and, specifically, barbershop harmony. Dave reveals the he knew about the Society, but thought a guy had to be a member of a quartet in order to be eligible for membership. Wonder how many other good singers are misled that way. Dave was accepted for membership in August of 1966, and was immediately elected to the chapter board of directors. And his wife joined the *Sweet Adelines*. The bug must have bitten them hard. ♥

## LIMERICKS UNLIMITED

The BE’s a strange sort of gent,  
Some say that his mind is quite bent.  
Ink flows through his veins,  
Clip art bends his brain,  
He thinks he’s another Clark Kent!  
— Robert J. Brown

## The Proper Way to Take a Bow

by Mike Mathieu

All of us who had the opportunity to participate in the Honors Chorus at Harmony University learned this handy tip on taking a bow, as taught by **Ev Nau** and **Jim Henry**.

1. Feet together.
2. Bend forward, hands coming together in front, head down.  
The head should be low enough for the audience to see your bald spot.
3. Time spent bowing should be “Animal crackers in my soup.”
4. Straighten back up with a grateful smile. ♥

## Summary of November 2007 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

### TREASURERS REPORT: Ron Fortino

Operating Fund: \$22,671.49

Members Fund \$8,934.21

Restricted Fund \$ 8,477.26.



### MARKETING REPORT: Dick Korek:

1,500 programs are being printed for the Holiday Spectacular.

### *Old Business:*

**COTS: Rick Foreman** - A total of eight people attended COTS this year: **Carter Combs, Bob Murphy, Harvey Shapiro, John Erwine** and **Rick Foreman** attended the Des Moines session. **Doug Brott, Kent Miller** and **Brad Dawdy** attended the Lincoln session.

**DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE: Doug Brott** - Five official applications for chorus director have been received. Interviews will be conducted and each finalist will officiate at a complete rehearsal during the month of December.

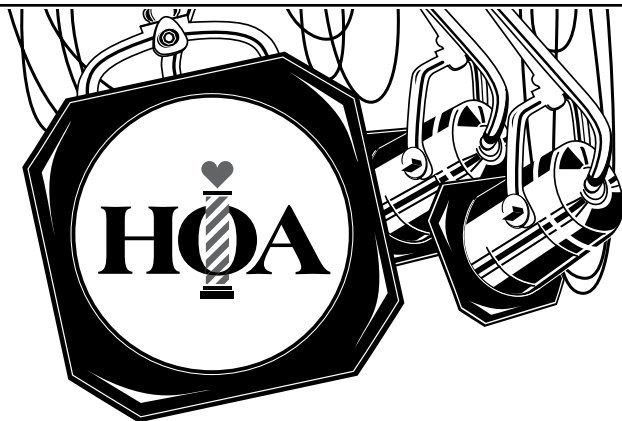
**HOLIDAY SHOW UPDATE: Tony Strub** - Ticket sales are going well, keeping pace with last years sales. Planning for meals, ushers etc are progressing on schedule.

**CSD COMPETITION: Mike Mathieu** - The Fall CSD contest was a huge success. The committee chairmen and their committees functioned well and kept the quartet and chorus competition running smoothly and on time. The Ladies Breakfast and BBQ were enjoyed by all who attended. The Expense/Income statement has not yet been finalized pending expenses and revenue not yet received.

### *New Business:*

**Loan Repayment:** The board agreed to begin repaying loans from individuals and members for the *Happy Together* CD beginning with \$2,000.00 in December.

Meeting adjourned. ♥



## We Shine the Spotlight on a New Member!

by Ron McIntire

Here's your chance to learn more about the newest member of the Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter!



Rich Rouche

**Richard (Rich) Rouche** is a 21-year barbershopper living in Gladstone, with his wife, **Linda**. He joined **HOA** in 1986 but transferred to the Liberty chapter in 2003 because it was much closer to his home. He sings Lead in the *HOA Chorus*. ♥

**WELCOME, RICH!**

## Barbershopper of the Month!



Don Fuson

### Kent Miller

Above: **HOA President Tony Strub** (left) presents **Kent Miller** with the September 2007 BOTM for organizing and executing all the plans for the *HOA* Golf outing. ♥



# Sponsor Spotlight

by Dick Korek,  
Marketing & P.R. Vice-President



***Year after year, The Green Company, Inc., has chosen to support The Heart of America Barbershop Chorus of the Kansas City Chapter.***

Beyond friendship, this outstanding firm recognizes the value of singing and a performing organization dedicated to family values. The Green Company understands the passion the HOA members brings to their hours of planning and rehearsing, so the Kansas City chorus and quartets deliver the finest in a capella, four-part barbershop harmony to every audience. Thank you, Green Company, suppliers of "Recognition Awards" throughout the country, for your sponsorship!

***If it's Valentine's Day, Tobler's Flowers will be there.***

The roses and encouragement *The Kansas City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society* receives from Tobler's Flowers are measured by smiles as tears of joy, as quartets from the *Heart of America Chorus* deliver "Singing Valentines" each year. Those two important days in February are coming soon: Wednesday, Feb. 13 and Thursday, Feb. 14. Quartets are gearing up now, and a most important item included with the delivery a song to your loved one is a long-stemmed rose from Tobler's Flowers. Thanks to Tobler's from HOA for continuing to make Valentine's Day so special! ♥



## A TIP OF THE HAT!

*The Tip O' The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members who have made a recent contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter.*

A Big Tip 'O The Noggin' Cover to the 10 or so HOA'ers and wives who helped move and set up the risers for the show: **Mike and Linda Schumacher, Don Young and Jana Henderson, Marty Oldehoeft, Tony Strub, Chuck Ames, Eric Weber, Tom Forsythe and Jerry Meier.**

And to the unnamed and unsung heros who dismantled, horsed around and otherwise moved and packed the risers and platforms after the show, you deserve the heartiest of hearty Tip 'O The Hat and a much-appreciated standing ovation. **WELL DONE.** ♥

# Heart of America Chorus

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DAVID F. HOKANSON FAMILY FOUNDATION



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KANSAS CITY  
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## It's Christmas Time for Command Performance!

by Rich Huyck



Well, it is that time of year when we are dusting off the Christmas repertoire and getting ready for the many opportunities that we have to entertain a lot of folks during the holiday season.

We again had the honor of performing on the annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular. *Command Performance* will be singing for several Christmas breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners in the month of December. And we have been invited to eat at all of them! Oh well, we can start working on that problem in January!

As you probably know, **Carter, Jon, Monty,** and **Rich** are very enthusiastic about quartetting and it is very pleasing to us to see the new quartets that have formed in the *HOA* family over the past few months. We would encourage anyone that might be interested in trying a quartet to take that first step by asking three other guys to get together early (or late) on some Tuesday or other evening of your choice. The worst that can happen is that you could become a better singer! If you want help with taking that first step, or if you have a new quartet that wants some coaching, just ask one of us or anyone on the Music Team. We will be glad to help.



We want to wish all of the *Heart Of America* family a wonderful holiday season and a very happy and prosperous new year! ♥

## Do You Know a "Quadrio-ite?"

by Michael Troyer

With a short break between now and prelims, *Quadrio* thinks it might be a good idea to fill the column dedicated to a "Quadrio-ite" so you as the reader can get to know us better. What better person to start with than the newest member, our tenor, **Rick "Rickio" Kready?**

Many of you know Rick from previous quartets and CSD functions, but did you know how involved he actually has been during his barbershop singing tenure? Well, check it out. As a third-generation Barbershopper, Rick brings a lifetime of singing and performance experience to *Quadrio*. He has won the Central States District quartet championship with three previous quartets, *Special Touch* in '84, *12th Street Rag* in '94, and *Take 4* in '05. Rick also has appeared multiple times on the international stage with his quartets, placing as high as 16th. Since Rick started quartet singing back in college, *Quadrio* is the 18th quartet of which he's been a member.

He serves as director of the *Capital City Barbershop Chorus* in Topeka, where he lives, and has been the director and coach for several other barbershop choruses over the years. In addition to the performance end of the hobby, Rick also has served in a number of administrative positions, including lots of jobs in his local chapters and serving as high as executive VP of the Central States District, and vice chairman of music and performance for the Barbershop Harmony Society. Recognizing his service to barbershop harmony, in

1997 he also was named the Central States District "Barbershopper of the Year."

Rick has a great barbershop lineage. His father, **Don**, competed at the international level with the *Travelaires* quartet while Rick was growing up and later started the chorus in Colby, Kansas. Rick's mother also started—and his dad directed—the Sweet Adelines chorus in Colby. **Pat**, one of Rick's sisters, is in *Very Light Opera Company*, an award-winning comedy quartet out of Colorado. **Donna**, Rick's other sister, was in *Classic Edition*, the Sweet Adelines international quartet champion in 1998, and currently sings in *Cabaret*, finishing

in eighth place internationally at the 2008 Sweet Adeline contest.

All three of his children, **Jeff, Jon** and **Jenna**, have con-

tinued the barbershop hobby for a fourth generation. Jeff was part of *Out of Class*, a Washburn University-based quartet that finished tenth in the 2001 international collegiate barbershop competition and was the lead who won the CSD championship with **Rick**—his dad—in *Take 4*. He then had to leave the quartet for his professional acting career, currently appearing on Broadway in "Les Miserables." Be on the lookout in the January issue, where *Quadrio* continues with the next victim—I mean, quartet member.

Lastly, *Quadrio* wishes each and every one of you a safe and blessed holiday season. — **Mattio, Grantio, Fabio and Rickio** ♥







## "My Space" Revisited

by Carl Turlin, Program Vice-President



Well, it seems like every year or five, a director calls for us singers to own our "box," which is defined as that space on the risers that only one of us occupies. Several years ago, that vocabulary was front and center in our rehearsals and was accompanied by the concept of a "ball of energy" that would wash over the audience as they witnessed our artistry and our intensity, especially when supported by our hand movements.

Since I signed on as a Barbershopper in 1999, I've been in both the hero section and the front row several times. No matter where I stand, the terminology of "my box" still rings true to me. Another way to put it would be that I own that three-dimensional space where I stand. Nobody else emotes or sings or gestures in the space that is my box within the chorus. When the camera pans the chorus or zeroes in on me, the guy in my box has energetic artistry, no matter whether it's energetic softness or energetic intensity. My body and hand motions express the emotions in the lyric, and no matter what any other guys are doing in their boxes, the guy in my box is representing the best that this guy has to offer to the story in the song!

That idea brings strength to us singers as it focuses on the accountability that is ours as an interpreter and performer of the song. I guess it comes home to me when I think of every row as a front row, every guy as an up-front performing and interpreting artist, no matter in what row we stand! ♥



Matt Bostick

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY  
ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:**

**DECEMBER 28**

## From Outside the Dugout

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor

My brothers were batboys for the St. Louis Cardinals back in 1953. I suppose my dad lobbied for them, since he was a player. Whatever the case, they received contracts from **August Busch, Jr.**, to faithfully serve the team for \$1. However, the job had its perks. Besides a free uniform and pop, here's others:



**My brother Gary's  
autograph book**

- Unlimited access to the field, as well as in the dugouts and dressing rooms where the players were.
- Securing autographs from Cardinal players as well as other National League teams like the Dodgers, Phillies and Cubs. (Their autograph books are crammed full of names from baseball's glory days such as **Musial, Robinson, Snyder, Dimaggio, Campanella, Harry Caray** and many more.)

Today, my oldest brother **Mike** plays it all down. The whole family never placed any major value on anything from that era. (We even recall our dad changing the oil on our family car, using his old Dodger jersey to wipe off the dipstick.)

I know what you're thinking: "Wow! *You're nuts!* Getting to play catch with guys like **Stan Musial** or **Red Schoendienst**? Those kids didn't realize how incredibly fortunate they were to have that opportunity!"

**You're right.** From *today's* perspective they didn't begin to understand how good they had it. A unique period in history!

I can draw the same analogy with *HOA*. **Jim Bagby** has been an *HOA* member since 1971—25 of those years as director. But I'll wager many of you have considered each Tuesday evening just another day at the office. All this time you've taken the field with a "Musial-level" barbershopper and it's become a non-event. Take that from a guy who can't attend rehearsals. Stand on the outside, looking in, and the perspective is vastly different.

Guffaw all you want, but the idea of singing a tag with the likes of Jim has always been huge to me. Here's a guy whose vast musical gifts have allowed him to enjoy every aspect of barbershopping. He knows what it's like to get a gold medal hung around his neck. He's directed you guys—an internationally-ranked chorus. And now he turns the page on another chapter of his life, only to find himself in the International judges chair. How many others do you sing with it that have those credentials? And I'm scratching the surface, trust me.

I just hope you don't grow older and realize all too late how good *you* had it. Those who are wise enough to know will certainly tell him. ♥

Merry Christmas  
to All!

# Heart of America Chorus Calendar

Dec. 15

**Caroling Caravan for Salvation Army**

*Uniform: Black pants, black shoes, long-sleeved white shirt (no button-down collar), red necktie and red vest.*

Dec. 25

**Merry Christmas! (No Rehearsal)**

Jan. 1

**Happy New Year! (No Rehearsal)**

Jan. 3

**HOA Rehearsal**

Jan. 5

**Installation Banquet at Doubletree Hotel,  
10100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kans.**

Feb. 13-14

**Singing Valentines**

Feb. 16

**Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School,  
14545 W 127th Street, Olathe, Kans.**

*The Kansas City chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society® is a singing fraternity whose mission is to learn, teach, and perform the highest-quality, entertaining, a cappella music that embraces the barbershop style through the Heart of America Chorus and its chapter quartets, to bring about a spiritual and emotional response from the performer and the audience.*

Collage Todd Anderson/Photo courtesy Dick Korek and Linda Fuson

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