



## Emoting: What's The Formula? - Part II by Phil Veltkamp

*This article is the second in a series. The first article was published in the December, 2005, issue of Harmonotes.* In that article, we explored some stepping stones to emoting. We addressed ability, attitude, focus, and experience.



Ron McIntire

Well, now you have arrived! You are now an amateur performer who emotes consistently, compels the audience with visual story telling, and brings this consistency to each and every performance. You feel like a champion! You own your spot on the risers! You have nothing left to additionally contribute to your presentation package! You can rest on your . . . ! Hey, hold on there! Surely there's more that you can work on! . . . Well, actually there is.

Where else can you improve? What's next?

Well, there are many granular areas that can be explored and considered when discussing presentation. I have been pondering one such topic for a few months now. Let's look into...

### The Eyes.

So, you perform all planned moves, with energy and timeliness, and with facial involvement (forehead, eye-brows, cheeks, smile, etc), yet an audience member perceives that you still lack that one certain something.

It's the eyes! Your eyes are the "window to your mind" while you are singing. You need to take great care

of what you are thinking while you are performing. Do not allow your eyes to tell a different story than the lyric. You need to control what you are thinking while performing. This is very difficult to master; I am just beginning my trek.

With everything else mastered and working for you in the area of presentation, your eyes can deceive you. Your eyes can show exactly WHAT you are thinking while you are performing. While the rest of your body is story telling and pouring out emotion, your eyes can be communicating to the audience:

- "What comes next; what comes next!"
- "Uh, oh, Jim just directed that differently."
- "Dooh. I can't believe it. So-n-so just missed that move again."
- "Oh, no, we are dropping in pitch some more."

*You get the idea.*

Over the past few years, a "what you are thinking" plan for a few songs has been written out and distributed to the chorus. Included in these plans were words and phrases describing specific emotions. (This type of plan might be very effective for some; I found it very difficult to remember and incorporate into my performances.) Without specifically addressing the eyes, how they can deceive and show what you are thinking, they did offer a "thought plan" for your performance. "Checked in" was the term describing a performer who was visualizing, within their mind, the stated plan; "checked out" was the term for someone whose mind was off somewhere else.

If you are not handed such a plan, or if that type of plan does not work

for you, how can you control what you are thinking while performing a song?

Choose a song, come up your own plan for it, rehearse your plan, and make it part of each performance.

**How do you do that?** I am not going to answer that question. I will, however, give an example of what is working for me.

I have found it most effective to have a preplanned "music video" of the song. Yep, a music video. I ask myself, "What is a possible music video for this song? What images do the lyric conjure up in my mind? What images are meaningful to me?"

So far, I have my own, personal music video for "When There's Love at Home" and "Runnin' Wild!" "Love at Home" involves a holiday family gathering, laughter, a warm cozy living room filled with joyful people, and a crackling fireplace. "Runnin' Wild!" involves the witch figure from the movie *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the villain figure from the movie *V is for Vendetta*, and other scenes and imagery from my memories.

While I am singing either of these songs, I see (think/watch/visualize) the music video. I don't see distractions; there is no room for interference. I am (or strive to be) "checked in" from start to finish because I have prepared for it to be that way.

A few years back, I began to note the different ways that excellent quartet singers perform. They do not always directly engage the audience. When a song might call for it, the lead, or the entire quartet might focus off to the side or above the audi-

ence, seemingly in a dream like state. A notable example of this was *Platinum's* performance of "Auld Lang Syne" here in Kansas City in 2000. Talk about being in a zone, being totally involved in the performance, and using the eyes to complement the lyric. Each member appeared to be in another world altogether, only the standing ovation "bringing" them back to reality.

When *12th Street Rag* performs *Joseph's Song*, **Mark Fortino** looks heavenward, in a dream-like state for most of the performance. Perhaps we could cajole Mark into writing an article on how he keeps his thoughts in check during a performance.

Another revelation for me, concerning eyes, was a television episode of "American's Next Top Model." It was very interesting to see what the eyes show in photographs. The eyes of the contestant that was cut in an early round appeared as though "she does not have a single thought in her head." The eyes were complete void of thought, energy, or engagement. The contestants that were making the cut had eyes that looked confident and energetic, with joy and charisma.

I figured if all of that could be captured in a photograph, what great opportunities we have during a live performance to tell the wonderful story of any song that we bring to our audience.

In summary:

- Monitor what you are thinking while performing.
- Do not allow your eyes to tell a different story than the lyric.
- Choose a song and develop a "thought plan" for it.
- Perform your "thought plan" for that song during a few rehearsals.
- Assess whether this tool can improve your presentation during performances.
- If so, incorporate into more songs in the repertoire; if not, work with the presentation team to discover what will work for you.

**It's the eyes.** Strive to sing with eyes that participate in the lyric, invite the audience into the story, and are warm and welcoming.

I am sure that you will not rest on your laurels as we journey together to "strive for excellence." ♥



## Silence—And Respect—Are Golden

by Thom Tisdall

As a relatively new member (three years) of the *Heart of America Chorus* and as someone who's also new to barbershopping (but not singing), I have something I think is very important to share with you.

Speaking from a singer's point of view, we still have a lot of distractions during our meetings. I'm referring to when we're on the risers at scheduled rehearsals, pre-performance warmups and pretty much any time there's a director or coach or Performance Team leader standing in front of us. To me, these are important learning and growing opportunities: they should be SACRED. They deserve our undivided attention!

No matter if anyone, anywhere 360 degrees around you, is not directly tuned in to what the person out front is saying, we must individually stay focused and respectful of what THEY are saying and teaching us. All this "side chatter," "inside jokes" and "director wanna-be comments" are a huge distraction—and totally rude, in my opinion.

Most HOA members realize this, I know, but a small minority of our members on the risers perpetuate these interruptions. I, like others in our chorus, look around and try to see who is distracting us that night. I have seen past HOA presidents, a couple Music Team members and regular chorus

guys perpetuate this rudeness. You'll hear guys who are fed up with the chatter try to shush, stare or even yell out for everyone to listen to what the leader up front is trying to communicate to us. I think this whole situation is getting old and needs to change.

Thinking back now, when guys around me have made a comment to me (during the rehearsal and even during the 10-second rule—the time right after a director's cutoff when we're listening for feedback), most of the time I'm able to ignore them and stay focused on the direction from out front. I can count, on no more than one hand, where I have tried to quickly respond or even ask a quick question instead of being quiet. I was wrong to do that in the past, and pledge to do much better every rehearsal or pre-performance opportunity.

If you can buy into the belief that we cannot change what we do not acknowledge, then how about all of us: start right now to inventory our past behavior (as I have) and make a commitment to how we proceed in the future. We can leave the socializing time to before and after meetings, during break time and after the rehearsal (including after the 10-second period) to converse with our fellow barbershoppers. I know that everyone in our chorus who has the desire to score, ring and sing at the top of our game and to truly grow, realizes that we need to commit to being respectful and to take our task a lot more seriously!

If we all work together on this one part of ourselves and of our chorus, and continue to make other improvement, imagine the possibilities! ♥



## A Great Time To Get Plugged In To Heartbeats!

by Eilene Campsey, *Heartbeats* President

I just wanted to start by saying "THANK YOU" to all of the heartbeat ladies for your hard work in support of the *Heart of America Chorus*. I know all the men appreciate knowing how much you all care about their chorus.

For you ladies who haven't heard about our group, please think about joining the *Heartbeats*. We are the ladies' auxiliary of the *HOA* chorus. Our dues are a mere \$5.00 per year and we use that to support many of the chorus's activities. We just completed a successful "PIZZA" dinner for the first CD recording session on May 21. Here are a few of our upcoming events...

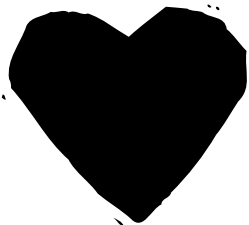
- Meal for the CD recording session to be rescheduled after Indianapolis
- Sendoff for the International competition on June 27 at the Double Tree Hotel
- Meal for Bell Ringing in November and December
- A ladies outing during the men's retreat in September...and much more!

If you'd like to join and need more info, just email me at [Eilene.campsey@wildblue.net](mailto:Eilene.campsey@wildblue.net) or feel free to call (913) 547-1979. Some ladies join and simply remain on our call lists for help with activities. Whatever your preference, we'd love to have you as part of our group.

Our next meeting will be an 'unscheduled' meeting on Tuesday, June 13. We'll meet at 7 p.m. at the church where the chorus rehearses. We're going to put together the sendoff items for the chorus members. Hope to see you all there!

One final item...the ladies have been trying to find a shirt to wear for Indianapolis and other chorus events that helps us find each other in a crowd and shows our support of the *HOA Chorus*. We have decided on the denim shirt with the *HOA* logo that can be purchased on the chorus website. We can choose either long or short sleeve. **Margo Campsey** and I will make sure the *Heartbeat* logo gets embroidered over the *HOA Chorus* logo. Just email me when you have your shirt and we will try to have them back to you by the sendoff on June 27. Please let me know if you intend to have a shirt done and I will look for it to arrive!

Hope to see lots of faces on June 13th!! ♥



## Hello Central States District Barbershoppers!

by Rick Spencer, Director of Music and Education

By now you are probably aware that the **Society's Harmony University** has returned to **Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO**. What you may not be aware of is that the Central States District and the Society are working together on a special "Weekend Session," which will take place **Thursday-Sunday, August 3-6, 2006**. This will be a modified version of the full Harmony University week and CSD's annual school, *Heartland Harmony Happening*. Some of you may have heard about this at a district convention, in your district bulletin, or from your chapter counselor.

**Starting Thursday night, August 3**, the Weekend Session students will combine with the full-week Harmony University students for the "Mid-term Bash," followed by a special Opening Session just for the Weekend Session students. During the day on Friday and Saturday, choose from three sessions of classes each day, or quartet coaching, or bring your entire chorus for chorus coaching.

**The Friday night show** will feature the popular *Harmony College Chorus* and the Parade of Quartets, and the Saturday night show will feature the *Next Generation Chorus*, the *Voices of America Chorus* (right from St. Joseph, MO), the Directors College Chorus, *Men in Black* (2005 International Collegiate Quartet Champions), and *Realtime* (2005 International Quartet Champions).

What could be better than that? How about a reduced price for all members of the Central States District? Regular tuition price is \$195 per person. CSD members pay only \$170. Two shows, fabulous instruction from some of barbershop's best teachers, three nights lodging, and all meals are included in this price.

For more information please visit [www.barbershop.org/harmony](http://www.barbershop.org/harmony), or call the Society office at 800-876-7464.

As the Dean of this year's Harmony University I personally invite you to take advantage of this opportunity.

*Thanks for listening and I hope to see you there!* ♥



## Grandfather-Father-Son Chorus Still Has Room For 25 More Singers

taken from *LiveWire*!

There's still time to get in on this beloved family-singing event at the 2006 international convention.

The chorus will be limited to 200 singers – but the deadline for sign-up has been extended to May 25.

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 rehearsal will be from 5-6 p.m. on Friday, July 7, on the main stage of the Conseco Fieldhouse.

### The music

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](mailto:jdebusman@barbershop.org) for a registration form.

Your fee of \$15 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. ♥

**livewire**  
news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

## Power Play To Appear On AIC Show In Indy

taken from *LiveWire*!

Don't miss the beloved 2003 champs on the "Wonderful World Of Harmony" in Indy.

Sharp-eyed fans have noticed a familiar quartet missing from ads for the Association of International Champions Show at Indy. Where's *Power Play*?

"Yes, we're still singing!" laughed **Mike Slamka**, lead of *Power Play*. "We're doing shows, we're doing schools, and we will definitely be on the show."

The AIC apologizes for the inadvertent omission from the ad, and encourages all *Power Play* fans to get out of their chairs and down to Indy to see them on the big stage in Conseco Field House, Thursday, July 6.

*Power Play* is part of an impressive quartet lineup that includes *Realtime*, *Gotcha!*, *Four Voices*, *FRED*, *Acoustix*, *Happiness Emporium*, *The Suntones*, and *Chicago News*.

Tickets: [www.aicgold.com](http://www.aicgold.com) or 800-877-6936. ♥



## Conseco Field House Site of the 2006 Indy Events!





## A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

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

### TEN YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1996:

Things were really humming for the HOA barbershoppers. Wrote President **Don Young**: "On Saturday, May 18, 26 members of the Kansas City chapter's core leadership met at the Ramada KCI to begin our run for a gold medal in 2002. During a 14-hour marathon session, we began the process of clarifying our mission and our new chapter focus. We also looked carefully and candidly at the factors, inside and outside the chapter, that would help or hinder the achievement of our mission. Using the insight we acquired in this process, we began developing action items that would move the chapter toward our goal, a gold medal in seven years!"

All that on "a beautiful Saturday afternoon when our leaders could have been golfing, at home with their families, or just relaxing after a tough week." Wonder if there has ever been a report on the success or failure of such an ambitious undertaking, since 2002 has come and gone but still no gold medal.

Don did commend those in attendance "for making that weekend a terrific success." Participants were **Kent McClean, Dennis Long, Kevin Beauford, John Landry, Ed Ward, Raymond Schwartzkopf, Jon Gathright, Richard Rusche, Charlie Ramirez, Lyle Rolofson, Mike Neff, Jim Bagby, Keith Schweer, Don Newman, Rich Huyck, Grant Hunget, Ron Abel, Bruce Wenner, Rod Rule, Al Higgins, Don Peck, Rick Dunaway, Martin Oldehoeft, Todd Anderson and Jerry Snyder.**



Ron McIntire

### TWENTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1986

HOA Membership VP **Ed Ward**, whose motto was "26 in 86," announced the acquisition of an incredible 19 new chapter members as of June 1 of the current year. (As I recall, the final total for the entire year was about 35.) Some of these were former barbershoppers, and three of them, **Lyle Wyly, John Goldsberry and Jim Rigg**, were once members of the Kansas City chapter. Goldsberry and Rigg sang with the *Kippers*, who were 1962 CSD quartet champions and competed several times at the international level. Wyly had once directed the *Overland Stage Chorus* and was a long-time member of the old Lawrence chapter.

A check of the 2005 HOA chapter directory reveals that only **Charlie Drake, Gordon Coleman and Bob Howard** are still on the chapter roster. Other bad news was the announcement that 18 HOA members had failed to renew their membership during 1986. Wonder what we could have done to prevent such a drastic turnover.

### FORTY YEARS AGO: JUNE, 1966

Once again there's a gap in my *Harmonotes* collection caused by the missing May, 1966 issue, so I must go to the June, 1966 edition for something for this segment of the column this month. To begin with, I note that **Don Thorne** had accepted the job as editor of *Harmonotes*, following the recent resignation of **Warren Edmonds**. Coming events included a trip to Leavenworth for a performance at the federal prison there, the annual picnic at Harris Park at Harris and Kentucky Streets in Sugar Creek, and a spectacular at the Music Hall, sponsored by the Society for the benefit of the Institute of Logopedics and featuring choruses from Lawrence, NOJOCO, St. Joseph and our own HOA. Quartets appearing on the show would include the *Kippers*, the *Merry Mugs*, the *Salt Flats* and the *Four Rascals*.

Also note that one of the new members introduced was a **Keith Schweer** who lived at 7848 Juniper in Prairie Village. He was an electronic data processing supervisor at the First National Bank. Said Don, "He has a fine background of music. The leads claimed him." Could that have been OUR Keith Schweer? The best bass in the Society singing lead? C'mon! Bet he didn't stay in that section very long. ♥

## Not Going To Indy? Don't Let That Keep You Away From Chapter Meetings!

by Jim Porter

Our chorus is now focusing on the International contest in Indianapolis. As of now, 81 men are committed to represent our chapter and are working hard to polish their contest set. If you are NOT among these 81 men, then this message is for you!

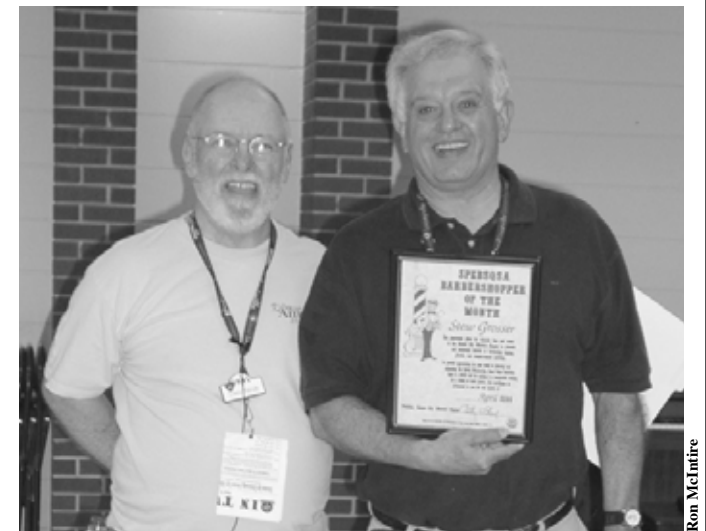
You might think it's time to take a sabbatical and do something else on Tuesday nights for the next month or so, but consider this: Once you start doing that, it might get to be a habit, and you'll be missing the fellowship in song! If you do return after the contest in July, it'll almost be like starting over. You'll be far behind the others in the chorus for at least the two contest songs. You KNOW we will be doing those songs in subsequent shows and the district contest, so why put yourself into a difficult position? Come and learn the songs along with your buddies who are going to Indy, and you'll be right up to speed with them as we strut our stuff in Overland Park in late July and at the district contest next fall. You'll also keep in touch with your friends, and can show your support for them as they work to improve their performance level.

Also, if you can afford the time and money, come to Indy anyway! You can just sit back, enjoy the week, root for your friends as they sing, and get a sample of all the convention has to offer. This can be a real fun time, so give it a try! ♥



Matt Bostick

## Barbershopper Of The Month



Ron McIntire

### April: Stew Grosser

In grateful appreciation for your work in planning and organizing the Spring Membership Guest Night festivities April 4, 2006 and for making it a memorable evening for a dozen or more guests. Stew is shown receiving his award from HOA President **Anthony Strub**. ♥

Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**

## 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 of the old Topper to the 69 HOAers who sang on the Richmond Show. And to **Dick Korek, Al Higgins and Vince Perry** who figured heavily in the contacting and contracting work with Richmond and to the unidentified and under recognized riser crew who arrived early and stayed late to horse the risers in and out of Farris Theater, we say thank you all.

A really big Tip Of The Hat to the 80 guys who braved the Sunday afternoon cloudless skies and beautiful golf weather, May 21, to record the first six songs for the new CD; to sound guru, **Mark Fortino**; directors: **Jim Bagby, Carter Combs, Mike Neff and John Fortino** and the Music Team for judging the accuracy and keepability of the recordings; to **Chuck Ames** and the guys who helped muscle the risers in and out of White Recital Hall we say "where would we be without you;" and, to prevent us from going home malnourished, we offer a deep bow of gratitude to *Heartbeats*: **Jeffi Combs, Mary Fortino, Eileen Campsey** and her daughter and **Margo Owen** for rustling up the pizza and salad at the end of the day.

And we offer a Tip Of The Top Hat to **Darin Drown** for a great coaching session and **Sheri Hart** for her choreography work with HOA. ♥

# Make ‘Em Laugh... But Crying On Cue Works Too

by Ol’ Dan



On April 29, *Tone-Henge* traveled to Hutchinson, KS to appear on the “Salt-miners” annual show. A good time was had by all, but the audience really came alive when ...well, let me set it up.

One member of the Hutchinson chorus has 11 grandchildren. That fact led the show committee to come up with a way to have all 11 appear on the show. The kids’ ages ranged from about nine down to (I’m guessing) two. The kids are waiting in the wings of the Fox Theater, an area that could handle maybe four healthy persons now is jammed with 15. The youngest grandchild, a two-year-old girl, is not happy with that arrangement. Furthermore while the chorus is performing, she is being instructed to wait for the proper cue before charging on stage, tactfully corralled by a delightful and patient young lady stage manager. The child was in no mood to be managed. Then as the chorus was singing “It’s a Wonderful World”, immediately after the phrase, “...I hear babies cry”, the kid let fly a howl that could be heard in Wichita.

The audience could definitely tell that the child’s wailing was genuine, but couldn’t believe that the comedic timing was just happenstance. Thus that cry created more laughter than *Tone-Henge*’s performance ! We didn’t mind. ♥

# Some Trivia! Of the 45 quartets qualified for Indianapolis from the USA and Canada,...

- 14 of the quartets did not appear last July at Salt Lake City.
- The highest qualifier among these was Men in Black, who were 17th.
- 8 of those who did had a score at least 0.1% higher than last July.
- 20 of those who did had a score at least 0.1% lower than last July.
- Up & comers? How about 3 Men and a Melody, up a full 1.3%?
- 12th Street Rag? Not too shabby either, up 0.5%.
- Our two quartets replace *Realtime* and *Riptide* in the top 10. (*Vocal Spectrum* only matched their SLC performance.) Watch also for *O.C. Times*, up 0.5%. *Quest* is also up 1.4%. The biggest gainer? *Premiere*, up 2.2% from last July. Note also *Stardust*, up 1.7%. *Keep ‘Em Guessin’*, up 1.7%.
- Perhaps their best days are behind them? Perhaps *Max Q* better win this year or hang it up—down 1.3%. *Metropolis*, down 1.8%. *Saturday Evening Post*, down 2.0%. *Flipside*, down 2.1%. *MatriX*, down 1.6%. *Storm Front*, down 1.6%. *Wheelhouse*, down 1.5%. *State Line Grocery*, down 1.7%. *Hot Air Buffoons*, down 2.7%. *Reveille*, down 2.5%. *Odds On*, down 2.7%. *Flashpoint*, down 1.3%. *Impulse*, down 1.8%. *NeXus*, down 2.7%. *Vantage Point*, down 3.1%, barely qualified. Finally, *Harmonix*, down 2.3%, qualified as only group in their district.
- Looking at the top 20 in Salt Lake City, *Riptide* (4th in SLC) and *Rounders* (14th), not in the hunt this year. *HotAir Buffoons* (16th) and *Reveille* (19th), out of the top 20. Since *Realtime*, last year’s champion, is also out, 5 new quartets are in the top 20.
- *Premiere* and *Stardust* competed last year, the other 3 are quartets that did not sing in Salt Lake City, *Men in Black*, *The Allies* and *Late Show*.

Matching to chapters, it’s interesting to note that some of the top chapters are well represented, while others are not. Some highlights here:

- Kansas City has 3 of the 180 men singing, the **Fortinos** and **Wes Yoder**.
- Liberty also has 3, the “3 Men” in *3 Men and a Melody*.
- St. Charles has 7, including the entire *Vocal Spectrum*.
- *Masters of Harmony* has 14, including 3 full quartets.
- *Vocal Majority*? Only 3, like KC, one in each of 3 quartets.
- Central Texas Corridor from SWD has 7 in 2 quartets.
- Denver Mile High has 12, 3 full quartets, the entire contingent for RMD.
- Alexandria has 7, Central Ohio has 8, and Cincinnati has 5. 20 of the 45 quartets have all 4 singers from the same chapter.

Districts? Yes, CSD has 3 of the top 10. No other district can boast that. FWD and SWD each have two quartets in the top 10. Overall, FWD has 8 quartets in the 45, and JAD has 7. That’s 1/3 of the total. MAD and SWD have 4 each. CSD, SUN, RMD each have 3. 5 districts have 1 quartet each, and 2 of these failed to score 76%. ♥

# Board of Directors May 2006 Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary/Ron McIntire

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Ron Fortino  
Operating fund as of 4/30/06 was \$21,779.61

**MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE REPORT:** Keith Schweer  
Coaching Schedule  
Recording of contest set sent to **Kevin Keller** – waiting for response  
Periodic Tuesday nights choreography sessions – **Sheri Hart**  
June 6 – **Bill Biffle** coaching session – confirmed  
August 15 – **Jim Henry** coaching session – confirmed  
Retreat coaches– **Mark Hale** and **Joe Hunter**

Indy Preparations  
- Thursday rehearsals scheduled for 6/15 and 6/22  
Qualification taping deadline 5/9 for anyone that was on the March show

New Music –  
New 4-part music for the holiday show has been selected  
Selection process has begun on new music for the Spring Show.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Stew Grosser  
Guest night is scheduled for August 8  
Father/Son/Daughter Guest night scheduled for Aug 22.

**MARKETING:** Dick Korek  
**Kent Miller** did a follow-up on information regarding grants and has outlined a guideline for getting grants. **Dick Korek** will review the donations list. Dick Korek is looking for donors to provide grants to support the CD.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
CD Project: Doug Brott  
The CD project is currently on schedule. Jim Porter is coordinating pre-sales. A letter has been laid out on asking chapter members for money to cover the initial costs of producing the CD. We need the up-front money by the end of May.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Spring Show site selection  
Yardley Hall, Unity Village and Scottish Rite Temple have been suggested as options for the spring show. The show date at Yardley Hall conflicts with the Trenton, MO show date. Trenton has been notified of the issue and will advise Dick Korek of a solution.

Meeting adjourned. ♥



# How Old Is Harmonotes?

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor



Ron McIntire

In a recent visit with **Ron McIntire**, I brought up how **Wade Dexter** mentions past editors, from time to time, in his *Look At The Past* article that appears each month in this publication. Made me question our bulletin history. Ron’s personal warchest contains *HOA* bulletins dating back to 1981. We know that *Harmonotes* goes back further...but how

far? I mean, is it true that *Tone-Henge* was around during the Mesozoic period? (Sorry fellas,...couldn’t resist.)

I know you sage members enjoy a challenge, so I’ll throw one out to you. I’m searching for answers to these questions:

- How old is *Harmonotes*?
- Did our chapter start it the first year it was formed?
- How many editors have we had?
- Who served the longest?

I’d love it if our membership would dig in their closets, old trunks, etc. to see if there are any old bulletins from *earlier* than 1981. In fact, it would be really interesting to see who owns the OLDEST bulletin copy! If we come up

with some ancient manuscript, I’ll scan it and run it in an upcoming issue. Might be a hoot!

Now maybe Wade could provide all the answers I’m looking for. However, I thought it might be fun to also include all our *HOA* members. I’ll bet Wade would agree. I’ll look forward to seeing what may be discovered tucked away somewhere. When I learn something, I’ll be sure to share it.

*HOA* has a lot of history. How sad it would be if about 20 key members were taken from us all at once, I wonder what recollections would go with them? It’s tough to imagine the vast amount of memories that we’d never reclaim.

500 years from now, when *HOA* members “look back,” I wonder if they will have an accurate account of *HOA*’s past—our *present*! Maybe we should do more to ensure that they will have more than just old bulletins? I’ll readily admit, I’m not visionary enough to know how to tackle that task. How do you collect, store, then access...all of *HOA*’s memories?

Then again, *Tone-Henge* will probably still be here. I’ll let *them* handle it. ♥



# Where Are They Now?

by Ron McIntire



Ron McIntire

If you ask anyone in the Kansas City Chapter who John, Richard, or **John Richard Sutton** is you'll get a funny look, but if you ask them who **Dick Sutton** is, now that's another story.

Dick Sutton is a 40-year plus barber-shopper, 25 of them singing in the *Heart Of America Chorus*. He originally joined the Ft. Wayne, Indiana chapter in 1962 and sang with

the Ft. Wayne Summit City Chorus. A job promotion sent him to Chicago and then back to Kokomo, Indiana, where, in 1970 he joined the Kokomo Chapter and sang with the *Men of Note Chorus* for another eight years. When he came to Kansas City in 1978, it wasn't long before he found the ranks of the Kansas City Chapter and *HOA*.

He's a low-key sort of guy—quiet, competent and fun-loving. He has a ready smile for everyone he meets and he has a knack for meeting a lot of people. It was a traumatic day for the Kansas City Chapter when he “mostly” retired, sold the house he and **Kay** shared in Blue Springs and headed back to Indiana. Not only was *HOA* losing a valued singer, but the chapter was losing a familiar face and a good friend. He now lives in North Webster, Indiana, about 30 miles from his birthplace.

Dick was born and raised in Kendallville, Indiana, a small town about 40 miles north and west of Ft. Wayne. After he graduated from Kendallville High School and got a BS degree in psychology from Hanover College, he did a hitch in the U.S. Navy, then went back to Indiana to work for a soy bean processing company. There, he and Kay met and married while they both worked at the same company. They have three children: **Mark** and **Todd** live in the Kansas City area, and **Julie** lives in Tennessee.

His love of singing is so strong that one could easily imagine he did two things when he landed back in Indiana: he immediately transferred his membership to the Columbia City chapter he usually visited when he took his periodic vacations to North Webster, then he put his suitcase down. Today, he directs the Columbia City, Indiana Chain-O-Lakes Chorus. Under his direction, the chapter and chorus have grown steadily from 18 members when he took over, to 32 members at last count. They do frequent public performances and, rumor has it, have cut a CD. It's not clear if the chapter will go into production on the CD, but the bankable fact is that they are growing and doing a lot of singing.

Music is not his only strong point. Many remember Dick in his role as Singing Valentine's Chairman from 1997 to 2001. Some would say he did it for at least three reasons: he could make a difference, it was something he could do well and it was something he wanted to do. There is no question he made a difference. At the helm, the program grew significantly to become a source of major revenue for the chapter.

Dick sounds the same when you talk to him on the phone and he's just as vibrant as ever. He will undergo a non-invasive heart procedure in the near future but he's still the same hard-drivin' Dick Sutton he was in Kansas City. He visits the chapter once in awhile when he and Kay come to visit the boys and he never fails to stop by the rehearsal room at International while we're practicing. His address is 311 Mulberry St., P.O. Box 589, North Webster, IN, 46555 or you can e-mail him at **webster-lakeHSD@earthlink.net**. I asked him one day what the HSD stood for. He said “High Speed Data.” So, if you send him an e-mail, don't forget to include the HSD part. ♥

## Numbers Don't Lie!

by Kevin Beauford

I have recently be studying encryption as it applies to computer security. When I ran across this sample of encryption I thought of *HOA* as we prepare for competition. Take from it what might help for contest prep. The math teachers, I'm certain, will love it.

**What Equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?** Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants us to give over 100%. How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life? What does the combination of hard work and attitude equal as we prepare for contest?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions.

If:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
is represented as:  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26.

Then: **H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K**  
 $8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

And **K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E**  
 $11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But, **A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E**  
 $1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$



# FOCAL POINT: Up Close and Personal!

by Ron McIntire

You can call him Gordon if you want, but he really prefers Gordy. And that's how it is.

**Gordon Coleman** was born in Birmingham, Alabama in the late 1920's and moved, with his family, to Brooklyn NY just before the crash of '29. He grew up and attended schools in Brooklyn and Forest Hills, Queens, New York and graduated from Richmond Hill High School, a couple of miles from where he lived.

In his college years, he started at Georgia Tech where his father had gone, but enlisted in the U.S. Navy three months later. Following basic training, he was sent back to “Tech” for further education and training as a naval officer. He eventually served on board the USS Yancey, an attack cargo ship supporting beach landings. When he left the Navy, he returned to Tech for a second degree.

His first job after college began a 37-year career with Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati, OH, in 1948 and, it wasn't long before he went on a blind date with his wife-to-be, **Marilou**. They were married a year later and now have five kids. This year will mark 57 years that he and Marilou have been together.

Gordy was working in Amarillo, TX, in 1952 when he heard a quartet on the radio doing a commercial for a funeral home. They called themselves the *Blackburn-Shaw quartet*. One of Gordy's co-workers contacted **Wendell Heiny**, the tenor in the quartet, and learned that they were all in the local barbershop chapter. He invited Gordy and three co-workers to a meeting and that did it. They were hooked.

Wendell, was a funeral director so, not surprisingly, his quartet was known in the Amarillo chapter as the *Four Hearsemen*. Before long he convinced Gordy and the three that they were a natural as a quartet. He even volunteered to help them. The only problem was they would have to come to the funeral home for coaching. “Not a real live audience,” Gordy said. That was the beginning of the *Panhandleaires*.

The *Four Hearsemen* was a popular quartet at that time and they always had a lot of singing requests – often more than they could handle, so it fell to the *Panhandleaires* to pick up the slack. “Most of the overflow performances were not great opportunities – they were freebies – but we got a lot of exposure and a lot of free meals.” The quartet appeared on a couple of

*Parade of Quartet Shows* over the years and the 25-member Amarillo chorus would do a few numbers. “It was a great thrill to sing on the same stage with the *Four Hearsemen*, by then the 1955 International Champs, the 1955 silver medalist Confederates (they would become

the International Champs in 1956) and the 1953 Sweet Adeline gold medalist quartet, *The Big Four*. “But the biggest thrill of all was at the afterglow where all of those medal winners treated the *Panhandleaires* as if we were medalists too.”

In 1956 Gordy and Marilou came to Kansas City. But, knowing how much commitment barbershopping took, he reluctantly left the Society and spent his time with work, Naval Reserve and helping to raise five kids. He and Marilou also sang in the church choir, and still do. “I also coached football, baseball and track and served as athletic director at St. Ann's School in Prairie Village,” he said, “and Marilou coached volleyball and track.”

After he retired from Procter and Gamble in 1985, he saw the chorus at Ward Parkway shopping center and came to a meeting. Being in the group filled a big void and it gave him plenty to do in his retirement, along with the traveling, tennis and golf he and Marilou do. The difference between singing in a 25-voice and 90-voice chorus is huge and there is a lot more work. “With *HOA* I have been involved in Singing Valentines from the second year, and when **Ed Sundermeyer** left the *Crosstown Four* a few years ago, I was asked to replace him.” Health, travel and chorus performances have prevented the quartet from getting together lately, but he's grateful **Ron Abel**, **Dale Neuman** and **Val Putzier** let him be part of the fun. “I'll sing and dance for as long as I can,” he says, “but at 80 this may be the last year I can be active on the risers.” ♥



Ron McIntire

## DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF HARMONOTES: JUNE 21