



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING  
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 08 - ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2008

## A New Year and a New Stage For HOA by Doug Brott, Chapter President



*As my first Harmonote's article as President, I have decided to provide the text of my remarks at the installation banquet.*

**C**hange, adjustment, conversion, correction, development, metamorphosis, refinement, transition. All these words and many more describe what is happening to *HOA* right now. Educated in Science and being a Science Teacher (a long time ago), I like *metamorphosis* the best. Metamorphosis is the process a caterpillar goes through to become a beautiful butterfly. Hopefully you remember the various stages. At what stage of development do we find *HOA* right now? Are we still at the larva stage, eating everything in site to grow or are we in the pupa stage, the quiet transition, hanging on the tree limb waiting to emerge as a beautiful, fragile, butterfly?

Unlike the butterfly, our course is not charted for us by nature. We, each and every one of us in this room, and those not here, will chart the course *HOA* is to take. We, by our actions, involvement and commitment will decide what *HOA* will look like in a year or in five years.

**We have many challenges. A new director.** What will that soon to be named person bring to the table? What refinements might be in store for us?

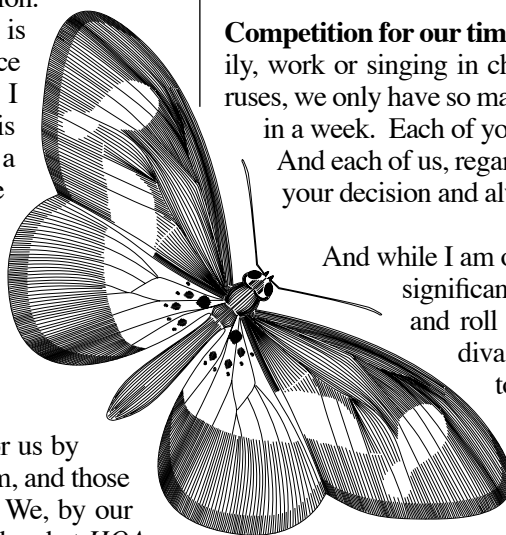
**Membership.** "28 in '08," the new theme for our VP Bob Murphy. Do we need new members? Yes, and we need a diversity of new members. All ages, all backgrounds. Bob cannot do that alone. His membership committee is the entire chorus and each one of us must step up and contribute.

**Money.** As most organizations like ours, money is always an issue. We do well, but we can do better. We want to be able to return to the community. We want to be able to promote harmony to our youth. It takes financial resources to achieve those goals. How can you help?

**Competition for our time.** A huge factor. Whether it is family, work or singing in church choirs, quartets or other choruses, we only have so many hours in a day and so many days in a week. Each of you must decide what is right for you. And each of us, regardless of our feelings, must abide by your decision and always encourage, never denigrate.

And while I am on this point, we must not forget our significant others. Whether they are a rock and roll queen, a big band babe or a disco diva, we need to show our appreciation to them each and every day. They allow us to partake of something that makes us feel good, even if they question our sanity for doing it.

*(Continued on page 2 ♦♦)*



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*Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel*



# 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

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

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

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

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

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

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## A New Year and a New Stage For HOA

(Continued from front cover)

I for one am looking forward to the next year. We cannot move forward scared of what changes might occur. We must move forward embracing every change as the next little step in our glorious metamorphosis. Will there be bumps in the road? *Yes*. Will there be Highs and Lows? *No Doubt*. Will some of our brothers become frustrated and maybe even leave? *Probably*. But, I contend, these are not necessarily bad. We learn from every bump. We experience something new with every High and Low. And for our brothers that might choose to leave, I end with a quote from **Albert Schweitzer**, the great humanitarian, physician and philosopher. "In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit." I ask one thing of you in 2008. Pledge to be the person that lights the flame in someone that has lost theirs. ♥

## Happy New Year! by Jeffi Combs

As many of you may know—and some of you may not—the *Heartbeats* is a not-for-profit group affiliated with the *HOA Chorus*, with a purpose to:

1. Promote the development of fellowship among wives/lady-friends of *Heart of America Chorus* members.
2. Assist the *Heart of America Chorus* in all their endeavors.

All wives, daughters, and lady-friends of chorus members are invited and welcome to join the *Heartbeats* at any time throughout the year. Our annual dues are \$5, and those monies together with monies raised through fund raising events go towards supporting HOA activities and special projects.

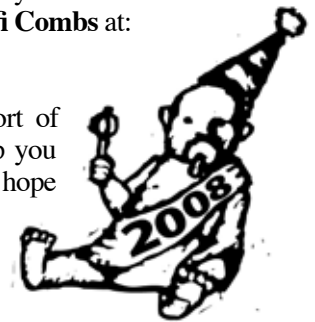
We meet about 4-5 times per year at St. Peter's church where *HOA* rehearses. Our first meeting of 2008 was held on Jan. 15 and we'll be publishing the other meeting dates as soon as they are set.

Some of the activities that are ahead for us in 2008 are:

- Coordinating a luncheon prior to the *HOA* annual show on March 29.
- Gathering applications and selecting an *HOA* recipient of the annual scholarship to Harmony University.
- Helping with the chorus send-off prior to International competition in July.
- Preparing snacks, etc. for special events the chorus may have through out the year.

Since we don't meet on a regular basis, we have set up an e-mail group to help facilitate communication amongst us. If you would like to be added to that e-mail group, please contact **Jeffi Combs** at: [jicombs@comcast.net](mailto:jicombs@comcast.net).

We appreciate each and every lady's support of the *HOA Chorus*. We'll do our best to keep you informed of our meetings and activities. We hope you'll join us whenever you can! Happy 2008! ♥







## There's No End to the "Heart" in Heart of America by Mike Mathieu



MATHIEU

**O**ur Salvation Army "Caroling Caravan II" was another glowing example of just how much heart truly exists in the *Heart of America Chorus*. On the second of three horrendous Saturday in a row during our wintry December, the Salvation Army Soldiers turned out in their inspiring *Heart of America* tradition. Braving slippery, snowy conditions, we had daring guys drive in from all over the metro area, two from Leavenworth, and mister reliable **Vince Perry** drove in over 60 miles from St. Joe. Their reward would be an unfathomable collection total that smashed all previous records.

I received a note in the mail today from Captain **Jose Gonzalez** from the Blue Valley Corps that stated his deep appreciation for your efforts. It read as follows:

*"On behalf of the Salvation Army/Blue Valley Corps, I would like to take this time to thank you and all those helping with the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus. Because of your combined talents, selfless time and energy, you were able to produce the very generous donation totaling \$6,244.54 in cash and checks for the Salvation Army/Blue Valley Corps, Kettle Campaign 2007. Because of your generosity, we will be able to move forward in our endeavors to help those less fortunate. Please thank all possible for this gift and may God Bless you and yours this coming year through."*

**You men made it happen.** You raised almost \$1,700 over the total from just one year ago. At this rate, let's shoot for \$8,000 next year, then \$10,000 the year after that. How about trying to become the single largest fund raising organization in all of bell-ringing? With a tweak here, and a tweak there, you surely can make it happen.

Some of our locations increased drastically over the amount that they raised last year. We had two separate locations that each raised over \$1,000. The first time location for this year did not meet expectations, but we'll perfect our marketing for them for next year. Another location taught us that we should not solicit anywhere over the noon hour, and we have already made plans for fixing that next year.

With some of the collective thoughts

that we have already gathered from brainstorming, goals that we could not imagine a mere 13 months ago, now seem very realistic and attainable. If we can make our first stop a wee bit earlier, perhaps we can sing at seven locations instead of our current six. If we can incorporate John Knox Village into our loop, far and away the largest retirement home in the area, who knows how much our total can increase going forward?

Special thanks to **Bob Burdick** for doing almost all of the work leading up to this great event. His follow-through is simply

ter. Bob's step-dad had raised him since he was very young, and he actually was the only dad that Bob had ever known.

Instead of backing out of his bus driving commitment, Bob decided to drive for us the entire day, when I'm certain he could have been doing numerous tasks associated with losing his father early that morning. He actually never told any of us about his great loss, but my wife Jan happened to see Bob's wife **Donna** at a company Santa Claus party Saturday morning. Donna requested that we just let Bob fulfill his day's driving duties to us and the Salvation Army, since those were Bob's wishes. Jan immediately called me and told me of Bob's loss, and told me to use my own discretion.

Bob happened to come in and listen to our last performance of the day, and I noticed that during some of our songs, and specifically "Silent Night," there appeared to be some serious emotions streaming from Bob face. I asked the chorus to remain in the room while Bob went out to ready the bus. I then told the group what had transpired with Bob and his step-dad early Saturday morning. I then said that we would "pass the hat" and give the entire collection to Bob and his family.

After you men gave of your time, your entire day, your talent, and your generous contributions to the Salvation Army, you put additional dollars into the donation for a man that most of you had just met that morning. I will tell you that it was so emotional to me that my hands were trembling as I straightened out the collected bills to put in an envelope for Bob. You all had held out your heart to this gentle man at his time of loss. It was one of the most emotional moments of my Barbershop career, which has numbered over 41 years. I guarantee no one would believe how much money you gave to a friend at a time of loss.

Today I received another thank you in the mail. It read as follows:

*Printed words of "Sincere thanks to all of you...It meant more than you could ever know. We just wanted to thank all of you for your exceedingly generous gift at the time of our step-father's death. Your generosity was truly appreciated by our entire family. May God Bless You The Eddy's." Signed Bob & Donna Eddy and family.*

I'm proud to call you all friends and brothers. Living proof that there truly is no end to the "heart" in the *Heart of America Chorus!* ♥ **3**



Director Jim Bagby leads the chorus at one of the Caravan's many stops

Don Fuson

an amazing thing to view. Thanks to **Lyle Rolofson** for providing funds to cover the school bus that we used. Special thanks to all of the members and friends of our chapter who individually contributed almost 40% of our collection total. The heart in our members never ceases to amaze me!

Perhaps an unbelievable conclusion to a phenomenal day was the compassion and generosity displayed by you men at the end of our day. For those not knowing what happened, I will briefly explain the situation, as it unraveled during the 24 hours preceding our event.

Our bus driver for the day, **Bob Eddy**, had put his step-father in a hospice center earlier that week to make his final few weeks a little less stressful for Bob and his family. They had been told that he would probably last a few weeks before the end of his life. Late Friday night, Bob got a call saying that it appeared the end was drawing near. Bob went to the hospice center, and late during the night, early Saturday morning, his step-dad lost his battle, a few days after having been admitted to the cen-



## Year of the Homecoming

by Ron Abel

*Thanks To **Ron Abel** for providing Harmonotes readers with the text of his introductory remarks during HOA's recent "Homecoming Installation."*



**W**e are gathered here this evening to install and honor our new officers and to pay tribute to those who have served faithfully in the past.

As the Society has moved its home to Nashville, it has deemed 2008 as the "Year of the Homecoming." As we look around the room tonight, this should almost be a spirit of "Homecoming." We get to see those whom we may not have seen for awhile and find a strong spirit of friendship in our midst.

A chapter should be a good deal like a "Home." It can provide comfort, support, success in some form and develop a sense of values of what is important in this "Family." The chapter "Home" can provide fun and a sense of well being. For those who are new, it is a place to learn, to create and to find new friends.

It is the responsibility of the leadership of this "Home" to see that those "Home" characteristics are always present. It is their job to see that the new man, who comes seeking a "Home," finds one that will make him want to join and want to stay. For the member who has grown accustomed to the comforts of "Home," it is the job of the leadership to provide a continuing sense of that comfort, to provide new challenges and opportunities.

It becomes the leadership's job to see that utilities are paid, messages exchanged and delivered, that the "comforts of home" are ongoing, material needs met, and the entertainment of a rehearsal is planned and produced at a high level.

It is important that the extended families of this "Home" are also kept "in the loop" with many social opportunities created, planned, and brought to the "Family" with the kind of excitement and energy we have here this evening. The family has a responsibility to support and encourage the activities of the "Home."

For those that produce the energy of the Chapter "Home"—the singers—it is the responsibility of the leadership to encourage them to grow and provide opportunities for that growth. Be it singing or learning leadership skills, it is up to the "Home" and its management team, to provide those opportunities.

Coming "Home" should be a positive experience and it is the responsibility of those here tonight, and those to be installed, who both have the responsibility to create and implement plans that will lead to a great "Home." ♥

## A Look at our 2007 Award Winners

by Bruce Wenner, Chairman, 2007 Awards Committee

**T**his year's Awards Committee, consisting of **Grant Hunget**, **Keith Schweer** and myself, had an easy time in deciding on the award recipients. Both of these men are, if anything, over-qualified for the awards. Earning the John Cross Award this year is **Mike Schumacher**, a true John Cross-of-all-trades. Mike is a long-time barbershopper and chapter member, and with this award he becomes the chapter's third triple-award-winner (the first two were **Ron Abel** and Grant Hunget). You couldn't ask for someone more in the John Cross tradition than Mike. In addition to his almost-perfect attendance, Mike has been on the spot when something needs to be done. He is first to volunteer to help when the risers need to be taken somewhere and set up or taken down. He learns all the choreography for both sides of the chorus, and can demonstrate it facing front and back; then he drills us in early rehearsals. Mike even organizes extra choreography rehearsals at his church to help the rest of us catch up. Makes you think we should have named the award after him – he's the poster boy for this award.

The 2007 Barbershopper Of The Year, **Jerry Garrard**, is a much newer barbershopper – but he has certainly packed a lot of singing and service into his eight years in the chapter. Just four months into his barbershopping career Jerry's talents were so visible that he became the tenor section leader. Not long afterward, Jerry and the other three section leaders formed a quartet called *New And Used Parts* – Jerry was the "new part" – and competed at CSD. Since then Jerry has sung in two other very accomplished quartets, *Sound Alibi* and his current quartet *Mighty Fine*, both of which have finished fifth in district competition. All the while, Jerry has taken on enough chapter responsibilities to keep an ordinary man from doing anything else. He has served several terms as program vice president, and several other years he has been the chapter show chairman – including for the upcoming show. In this position he has made the difficult venue transition from the Music Hall to Yardley Hall. Combined with his service as vocal coach and assistant director, Jerry is a perfect fit for the honor of Barbershopper Of The Year. ♥



Ron McIntire

**Left to right:**  
**Jeffi Combs - Heartbeat of the Year**  
**Jerry Garrard - HOA Barbershopper of the Year**  
**Mike Schumacher - John Cross Award**





## This Is Your Life, Jim Bagby...An Awesome Event

by Monty Duerksen



The most exciting opportunity in my 58-year Barbershop-

ping Career occurred last Saturday night! Our Central States District President/*Heart Of America Chorus* member, **Don Fuson**, and Program V.P. **Carl Turlin**, gathered information and brought pertinent people to this event. It was my privilege to present the important events in **Jim Bagby's** life, that Don had brilliantly assembled—slides, telephone interviews and people presenting in person.

**Al Higgins** had scheduled lodging for Jim's family. **Tony Strub**, past president of *HOA*, presented the *HOA Director Emeritus Designation* to Jim, and a bouquet of roses to **Joann** as an expression of appreciation for her support in Jim's life. Jim joined his brothers to sing "Oklahoma" and "When There's Love at Home." *The Rural Route 4*, with **Carter Combs** standing in for **Don Kahl** and **Wes Yoder**, performed "Apron Strings." The grand finale, "You Raise Me Up," was sung by the *Heart Of America Chorus*, directed by **Mike Neff**.

Thanks to the many presenters that made this tribute to Jim a super tribute to all that he has done in his life, including his work with youth, honored by two songs performed wonderfully by our own *Top-Notch quartet*—sons of **John** and **Mark Fortino** and **Jerry Meier**.

Jim, your life is special. Our best to you! ♥

## The Bagby Saga by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

I've been wondering for some time just how **Jim Bagby** made the transition from just another member of our chapter to become one of the finest barbershop chorus directors in the entire Barbershop Harmony Society. We all know that he's a fourth-generation Barbershopper whose experience goes away back to when he was a tot, so I won't go through that again. But I wanted to know how he became deserving of the tremendous tribute that took place at the installation banquet. It's probably old news to the old timers—those who date back from late 1983 when I joined *HOA*—but I'm hoping it'll be of interest to those who joined within the last 25 years.

So I did a bit of research among my collection of back copies of *Harmonotes*. Jim transferred from the Lawson, Oklahoma, chapter to the Kansas City chapter in 1971. At that time, **Don Webb**, who'd been the music director for 14 years, had resigned. **Dan Henry** and Jim Bagby were appointed "temporary interim" directors by the outgoing board of directors, supposedly for the period until the 1972 board could appoint a new director. But the January 1972 issue announces that "Dan Henry has agreed to be No. 1 chorus director, **Steve Leone**, No. 2, and **Nelson Moser**, No. 3. All three are very well-qualified to direct our chorus." Somewhat of a glut of prospects, wouldn't you think?

But the March 1972 issue lists Dan Henry as the chorus director under the listing of the chapter officers. What do you think of that? I remember at least

one *HOA* annual show where Dan did an entirely acceptable job, which may come as a surprise to some of the newer members.

It wasn't until 1974 that Jim's previous experience as a director of the Oklahoma City chapter and several Sweet Adeline choruses in Oklahoma, as well as directing the Independence, Mo. SAI chorus to two regional medalist winners, prevailed in 1974. And in 1978, he took the *Heart of America* chorus to its first district championship. And what happened to Dan Henry, you may ask? Well, the chorus was, I'm sure, grateful to Dan for hanging in there in the interim.

In 1983, after directing *HOA* to consecutive CSD championships, Jim took a sabbatical to "devote maximum time and energy to the *Rural Route 4* and their quest for the international gold medal," as the *Harmonotes* editor at that time put it. It took a long time, but as most of you know, they were successful in 1986. Steve Leone and **David Krause** did the arm waving until in July 1990, when Jim resumed the position. Since then, *HOA* has won the district contest seven times.

But fortunately for *HOA*, Jim was never totally inactive during the seven-year interim. In 1988, he served as membership vice president (would you believe that 36 new members were signed up that year?), and as chapter president in 1989. I believe we can fully expect Jim's continued contribution to the chapter's welfare in many ways.

So don't think for one minute that Jim Bagby, who's now in retirement, will just disappear. ♥



# Memorable Night Resonates for Retiring Arm-Waver

by Jim Bagby, Director Emeritus

What a thrill it gives me to write those two words: *director emeritus*. Of all the wonderful things that happened during the surprise “This Is Your Life” presentation that capped the Jan. 5 HOA Installation and Awards banquet, no honor could have meant more to me than the announcement by outgoing President **Tony Strub** of the board action making me the first director emeritus in the proud history of the Kansas City Chapter.

That came in quick sequence with the presentation by our own CSD President **Don Fuson** of the newly created Society Career Milestone award and HOA singing “You Raise Me Up,” which I know you don’t know, because I read the *In-Tune* even if I am on leave. Associate Director **Mike Neff** says you learned it in two rehearsals—one of those, I gather, on a non-meeting night at a different site. What an unbelievable finish to an amazing night.

All this after virtually every **Bagby** family member in the world either walked through the door or showed up in a pre-recorded greeting—along with those from numerous other significant people in my life, all the way back to high school. It turns out **Joann** and **Fuson** have been in dizzy cahoots for six weeks—a pretty good trick since I haven’t been able to drive since early December and have pretty much been confined to the house after rotator cuff surgery.

Don’s involvement went so far as to provide the driving members of my family a stocked ice chest, since they didn’t have room for one in their car, and the folks who flew from Colorado and Chicago certainly didn’t. To have the *Bagby Brothers* sing, and the *Rural Route 4* (with **Carter Combs** filling in splendidly on tenor) was another treat for me.

**Al Higgins** and **Don Young** were banquet superstars, as usual. **Monty Duerksen** was in on the “This Is Your Life” concept and did a great job as narrator; he really was on hand

when I attended my first Colorado Springs Chapter meeting at age 11—and a member of the first quartet I ever heard, the *Springs Singers*. **Fuson**, **Carl Turlin** and **Ron McIntire** were responsible for the pictures (after numerous trips to my house and Joann making one icy journey to Don’s while HOA was caroling).



Ron McIntire

The *Heartbeats* presentation by **Linda Schumacher** and **Jana Henderson** was delightful, and **Helen Shores** went wonderfully overboard with her recollections on behalf of the *Hallmarks* and the *Independence Sweet Adelines* (you should taste that McCormick’s eggnog liqueur **Dick Shores** came up with!). **Keith Schweer** made about as nice a speech as I’ve ever heard from a guy who would just as soon let others do the talking. And what a treat to have *Top Notch* represent the next generation with a really well-sung performance!

Aside from all this, well, outpouring, I’m struck by just the fact that so many people in the world’s best chapter would go to that much planning, time and effort. Don Fuson alone must have devoted more time than he does to passing six contest qualifications. I don’t remember when I’ve laughed and cried and cheered more all on the same night.

I look forward to returning to active HOA riser duty soon. Meanwhile, my deepest thanks to all involved. Congratulations to Barbershopper of the Year **Jerry Garrard** and John Cross Award Winner **Mike Schumacher**, both totally deserving choices! Happy New Year to all.

And this is my final thought as director:

*The arm-waver torch is passed; it’s time.  
That chapter is now complete.  
I leave with my head held high,  
And my pants around my feet. ♥*

## An Active Year for Command Performance

by Jon Gathright



Greeting to all and a great 2008.

Looking back on 2007 was heaven. We were blessed with many performance that kept us busier than ever. As with most all quartets new and old—and three of us are old—there are always great times and some really great times and for those we are thankful and appreciative.

Probably our most memorable time this last year was our trip to Cottonwood Falls, Kans. where we put on an hour and 50-minute show, with a ten minute intermission, in the Emma Chase Cafe—a local landmark. We had more fun than we should have, even with **Monty**, our “Chick Magnet,” keeping his clothes on. We sang everything we knew including “Home on the Range,” and to our amazement everyone stood up with hat and hand over the heart, later we found out that the folks around there consider it to be the Kansas Anthem.

*What a great time!*

**Carter** is the one that was responsible for forcing us to learn the “12 days of Christmas” fiasco. We fought him all the way, convinced it would not be understood and would not go over but we, sort of, learned it anyway. We had more fun with that crazy parody than any other song we have. We found that the older crowd, that’s around **Dan** and **Monty’s** age, didn’t quite know what to think. I don’t know how we will be able to top that song but I think Carter has a little smirky grin so I think the wheels are a turnin’.

Quartets are the foundation of the society. We encourage each of you to get with three other guys and just get together as often as you can to sing some familiar songs and enjoy the fellowship. I know the question always comes up, “How do you get all the other parts?” Well, some guys can sing more than one part if they try. The first couple of times are usually the hardest but try it a few more times. After you all know two songs, ask one of the more accomplished singers, and there are many in the chorus, to listen and help. Give it a try. You’ll be surprised.

This will be a year of change in the chorus, I know we all will strive harder to reach our individual goals. *Have a great year!* ♥

## HOA’s Membership Committee: That’s All of Us!

by Bob Murphy,  
Membership Vice-President



I am pleased to announce our newest member of HOA is **Mike Templer**. His application was presented to the Board at the December Board meeting and was approved. Mike is a good addition to our bass section. I would also say I have seen him become involved already. He has helped set the risers and was also in attendance at the Installation Banquet. Please take the time to welcome Mike into our “home.”

I also want to point out once again the membership theme for this year is “**28 in ‘08.**” As our new president, **Doug Brott**, said at the installation banquet, each HOA member is a member of the Membership Committee. Without everyone’s help there is no way we can increase membership to the projected number of 28. We will not reach this number until we all look to every Tuesday night as a “guest night.” I suggest that in order for us to increase our active membership by 28 we will need a minimum of 100 guests coming to our meetings during the course of the year. If we have 75 members on the risers, that is just a little more than one guest per member, but not without the help of the full committee, and that committee is each and every one of us.

Start searching for those new members, bring them in and help them become a part of this changing and exciting new direction we are taking. ♥

## HOA FIRST CLASS

Sunday - 1/6/08

Dear Jim,

**Lisa** and I want to sincerely thank you, *Cardio Jam* and the members of the *Heart of America* barbershoppers who sang at **Quinton’s** funeral. You know he loved singing with all of you. It was such a wonderful tribute to him.

Lisa and I are doing as well as can be expected. It is hard to believe he has been gone four months already. We made it through the holidays with lots of support from family and friends. We know 2008 has to be better than 2007!

Be sure to keep us on your mailing list. Lisa and I want to continue to attend your concerts.

Again, please express my gratitude to everyone.

Sincerely,

**Peggy Bowles**

(Received with a check for \$100 to HOA)



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

**JAN. 24**





January 1 **John McConnell**  
 January 1 **Tom Steele**  
 January 3 **Don Newman**  
 January 7 **Harvey Shapiro**  
 January 9 **Bob Rutherford**  
 January 10 **Oly Oldehoeft**  
 January 13 **Fran Gangel**  
 January 13 **Roy Manade**  
 January 14 **Kent McClean**  
 January 15 **Steve Carruthers**  
 January 20 **Gary Mehalic**  
 January 20 **Robert Tipton**  
 January 21 **Brian Marston**  
 January 25 **Bob Burdick**  
 January 30 **Rick Foreman**

## Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



**Note** that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated 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 Friday, Jan. 4, and five drawings so far, the total raised for Harmony Foundation (since Nov. 15, 2007) is \$190. Last year, the total raised to date was \$320 (6 drawings). In 2006, the total raised to date was \$651 (6 drawings).

**Frasier Allen** was our latest big winner, taking home \$275 on Jan. 3! ♥

## Orval Wilson Harmony University Scholarship Application

by Carol Ramirez and Mary Fortino,  
Harmony University Scholarship Committee



The *HOA Chorus* and the *Heartbeats* are sharing in the cost of one scholarship to Harmony University for July 27 to August 3, 2008. Harmony University will be held at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO.

This scholarship is open to any first-time participant at Harmony University. Forms are available on the HOA website and on the information table at the meetings.

Deadline for the entries is Tuesday, May 6, 2008. ♥

## One Tone-Henge Instrument Bites the Dust

by Ol' Keith



It was a very busy holiday season for the *Tone-Henge* family. It started with the annual Holiday Show, where we did our first public performance using our newest instruments, the angklungs—those crazy bamboo things.

When I got home late Saturday night after the Holiday Show, I had several things to carry into the house, so I put my angklungs on the trunk of my car while I carried in some other things. The next day, I got in my car to run some errands but forgot to take the angklungs off the trunk. You can imagine the rest. As I was going down the street, they flew off my trunk and into the path of oncoming traffic. You guessed it – *crrrrrunch* – a million pieces.

Well, **Dan Henry** applied some of his magic and “fixed” it. They sort of work, but because of the large quantities of glue and plastic used to re-construct them, they don’t have quite the same tone as the others.

The rest of the month consisted of our annual Christmas dinner with the wives (where we do our best to drain the quartet treasury), our caroling party in Dan’s neighborhood and the normal family holiday activities. Then 2008 started off with the Chapter Installation and Awards Banquet. We want to congratulate **Mike Schumacher** (John Cross Award) and **Jerry Garrard** (Barbershopper of the Year): well-deserved on both counts.

And what a wonderful tribute to **Jim**, put together by **Don Fusion** and his team—a great finish to a stellar directing career, and another great year for the Kansas City Chapter. ♥



## Coming Attractions!

Carter Combs, Music VP



Well, another exciting year is behind us, and it's time to look toward the new. Here is a sneak-peek at some of the big musical events already scheduled for this year.

**Feb. 13-14: Singing Valentines** - Our goal is to field the best-singing quartets ever, and then to max 'em out...keep them all busy for two days running. This is definitely one of the most rewarding events of our year, both financially and emotionally. I hope you are already getting your quartet together.

**Feb. 16: Harmony Explosion** - What better way to ensure the future of our favorite art form than to help kids discover the joy of ringing those chords?

**March 1: HOA has a Saturday night, one-hour performance at Colonial Presbyterian Church.** This is an excellent opportunity to strut our stuff, and promote our annual show at the end of the month.

**March 29: HOA's 62nd Annual Show**, at Yardley Hall, with headliners *Metropolis*. 'Nuff said! Show-chair—and newest Barbershopper of the Year—**Jerry Garrard** is the man with the plan.

**April 18-19: CSD Spring Convention** - Quartet International Prelims. I suspect we'll have a couple strong contenders there!

**May 16-17: HOA Retreat.** Just wait until you see the new venue that **Al Higgins** has found for us this year—Lake Donovan in Excelsior Springs. Comfortable, hotel-style rooms instead of dorms, spacious rehearsal hall, beautiful setting, and talented coaches to help us prepare for the Big Show!

**July 1-5: International Convention & Contest in Nashville!** Chorus manager **Vince Perry** is already working on the logistics, and your Music Team is focused on making this one of HOA's finest years ever.

**July 27 - Aug. 3: Harmony University at Missouri Western in St Joseph, MO.** Without a doubt, this is the finest education on the planet in the art of Barbershop. Extensive instruction is presented for individuals, directors and quartets. Rub elbows with the best of the best—international caliber quartets, arrangers, coaches from all over the globe.

**Oct. 10-11: CSD Fall Convention – Chorus International Prelims**

**Dec. 6: Holiday Harmony Spectacular**

**Dec. 20: Caroling Caravan** - Mike Mathieu is already trying to figure out how we best the \$6000 we raised in 2007!

**Add to all that the golf tourney, family picnic, singing in the park,** and who-knows-whatever-else comes our way, and you have the makings of another banner HOA year. ♥

## HOA Financial Corner

by Kent Miller, Financial Committee

### Why Didn't the Rest of us Know?



Last month I mentioned that all expenses a member incurs going to contests (travel, lodging, meals, etc.) are tax deductible as charitable expenses and promised that I would elaborate on those expenses this month. Before

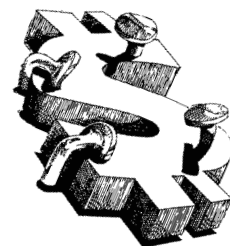
doing that I decided to take an informal poll to determine the extent to which this information was already known. The results were interesting. I would estimate that perhaps ten percent of you knew that you could deduct these expenses, so the above question probably pertains to about 80 to 90 percent of us.

You may deduct the expenses because you are being educated. Section 5.4 of the Chapter Treasurer's Manual states "...IRS regulations state that an educational organization is one designed primarily for the "improvement or development of the capabilities of the individual."...Obviously, the main part of a chapter's activity is directed toward improving and developing the capability of the individual to sing barbershop harmony."

These expenses are deductible because barbershop chapters fall under Section 501C(3) and are only deductible as charitable expenses. They are limited to 30% of the amount on Form 1040, line 38 (adjusted gross income). You must itemize deductions on Schedule A to take the deductions.

You may deduct expenses associated with public appearances including contests, shows and other public appearances, and attendance at inter-chapter, area and district meetings (but not including chapter meetings). You may deduct expenses connected with travel (defined in Tax Regulations Section 1.162.2 as travel fares, meals, lodging and expenses incident to travel) unless you are only a spectator and if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in the trip.

You must have very good records of your expenses in case you are audited. Also the Chapter Treasurer's Manual (Section 5.15.3, available on the Society's web page) states that some individuals have had problems with the IRS locating our organization in the IRS Code. The Manual gives explicit instructions on how to locate it (I believe it is listed as SPEBSQSA).



**Next month:** A Charitable Remainder Trust primer. ♥



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



DEXTER

### **TEN YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1998**

I'm convinced—almost. After surveying the membership and getting no response—except from good ol'

**Ron McIntire**, who couldn't recall

himself—it's apparent to me that there was no January 1998 issue of your chapter bulletin. I find a sense in several of the articles in the March 1998 issue that confirms my assumption.

For example, Treasurer **Jim Beutel** had prepared a comprehensive article that covered the financial state of the chapter throughout the entire year. If there had been a January issue, the article would have appeared there, right? And it was in Jim's article that I came upon an explanation of how the chapter acquired the funds to cover the trip to Indianapolis for the international convention. It was an active member of the chapter who supplied the money, and more than half of the chapter's share of the proceeds from the "Holiday Harmony Spectacular" went to repay the loan.

### **TWENTY YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1988**

About that proposal for the establishment of a "competition chorus" the one that was prepared by a committee chaired by **Al Benz**, and that President **Marvin Faulwell** covered at length in an article in the December 1997 bulletin. The completed study was submitted to the chapter board, which took action on it at the January board meeting. According to the report in the January 1988

*Harmonotes*, "After lengthy discussion, the motion (to approve the two-chorus concept) was rejected by a vote of 5 to 4. It was then moved that the proposal be used by the 1988 board as a framework for further development of the concept. That motion passed."

### **FORTY YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1968**

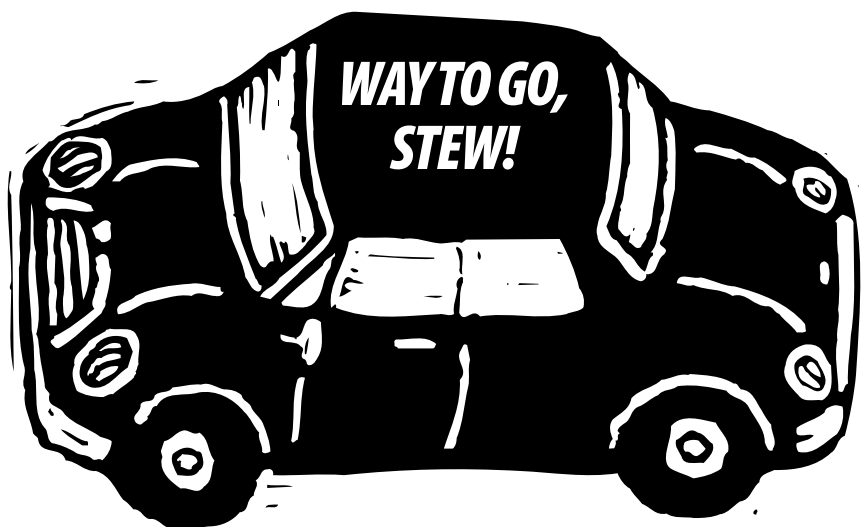
Not much of interest in the two pages that comprise the January 1968 issue. The new board of directors for 1968 consisted of **Ed Rooker**, president, who was the original tenor with the old *Merry Mugs*; **Dave Larson**, membership VP, whom we featured at length in the December 2007 issue; **Gerry Kelly**, program VP, who was active as a quartet lead for many years; **Bernie Geier**, secretary, whose name appears frequently in the bulletin of those days and **Joe Costigan**, treasurer, a heckuva great bass who calls me up once in a great while.

The following was borrowed from the Sharp Flats, the bulletin of the Southtown chapter of Chicago, Ill.

*Most any old Tuesday is special  
For a fortunate member (like me).  
Sharing singing and jokes  
With these greatest of folks  
(Can be) life's finest harmony. ♥*



Someone needs to give a dedication award to **Stew Grosser**. On his way to the Salvation Army caroling, he lost control of his car. He says he did two three-sixties, a couple of violent swerves and a one-eighty while going down and up the other side of an embankment. He managed to drive back on to the road. After AAA replaced his blown tire, Stew went on to catch up with the carolers! ♥



## Jimmy Fern: HOA's First Music Director

by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus



In the "Forty Years Ago" segment of my *Look At The Past* column in the June, 2007, issue of *Harmonotes*, I told how I had asked the question "Who was the first HOA music director?" in this column—in an issue of our bulletin—about 10 years earlier. I had found in the December, 1955 edition that our first arm-waver was **Tom "Moonlight" Murphy**, which led to a call from old-timer **Frank Leone** informing me that I was wrong, that the answer should have been **Jimmy Fern**.

I thought no more about it until last evening when I went to check my e-mail and found the following message below. It was from a gentleman named **Edward J. Fern**, who lives in Mission Viejo, Calif.:

*Dear Mr. Dexter:*

*I've just done a Google search on 'Jimmy Fern' and found what appears to be the June '07 edition of the newsletter of an organization called Harmonotes in which you report that my father was your first director. My Dad was born in an unincorporated place called West Mineral, Kansas, very near the entrance to the Star mine where Irish folks were able to find work. When my Dad reached high school, he came under the influence of a music teacher who informed him that each year, Emporia State Teacher's College offered a free ride to some applicant simply because he or she was able to play some instrument they happened to need in the Emporia State orchestra. My Dad spent the next four years learning to play EVERY instrument represented in the Emporia State orchestra.*

*He moved to Kansas City in 1930 because his teaching contract was not renewed at Ellsworth, Kansas, High School. Apparently music and penmanship were expendable courses in the depression. My Dad offered individual voice and piano lessons, conducted a chorus for a local brewery, a quartet for a funeral home and band concerts for the city recreation department. He also had a weekly radio show on WDAF until he missed one show because he was at the hospital for my own birth in January of 1945. The next year, he became the first Muzak (elevator music) salesman west of the Mississippi River. Dad passed away in 1993. I miss him.*

*Yes, Dad had little tolerance for inattention. When he called his little boy to supper, I had better respond to the first call or there would be a swat on the rear waiting for me at the front door when I finally showed up. He attended graduation when I earned my Master's degree at Pepperdine University at Malibu, California, in 1992. I will carry the look of his pride with me as long as I am able to remember anything at all.*

*So I will assert that your organization enjoys the great benefit of having been under the direction of a great man who started life in a two-room house, brought joy and laughter to nearly everyone he ever met and finished his journey in quiet dignity.*

*Best of everything with your continuation of his legacy. ♥*



## Summary of December 2007 Board Meeting

by Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

### TREASURERS REPORT: Ron Fortino

\$8,814.71: Restricted Fund: \$6,377.26

### Membership: Bob Murphy

Approved membership application of  
**Mike Templer – Bass**

### OLD BUSINESS:

Re-payment of *Happy Together* CD loans:  
Loans will be paid on the schedule recommended.

### Ad-hoc Committee on Endowment: Kent Miller

A new monthly article will appear in the *Harmonotes* called "The Financial Corner" that will discuss the financial aspects of belonging to a charitable organization, donations, tax advantages and many more ways the organization and the individual can benefit.

### Singing Valentines: John Erwine

Russell Stover has declined to donate the candy this year. Committee is trying to get the candy at cost.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**CSD Convention Financial Report:** Will be available in mid January.

**Award Frames:** Agreed that money (approximately \$140) be set aside for 31 certificate frames for Extra Mile Award winners who worked on the CSD Fall Convention.

*Editors Note:* Frames for BOTM and Extra Mile Award certificate are normally provided on an on-going basis. The vote to set aside funds was an acknowledgement of the one-time cost for such a large number of awards. ♥







## October Barbershoppers of the Month!



Ron McIntire

### Bob Burdick & Mike Mathieu

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** (center) presents **Bob Burdick** (left) and **Mike Mathieu** with the Oct. 2007 BOTM!

**Mike Mathieu** - In grateful appreciation for your work and leadership as General Chairman of the 2007 SD Fall Convention and Contest in Kansas City, MO, Oct. 19-21.

**Bob Burdick** - In grateful appreciation for your work as Asst. Chairman of the 2007 CSD Fall Convention and Contest held in Kansas City, MO, Oct. 19-21. ♥

## November Barbershoppers of the Month!



Ron McIntire

### Kent McClean, Mike Schumacher & Bob Rutherford

**Kent McClean** (left) - In grateful appreciation for your work and leadership as Show Chairman for the 2007 Heart of America/ Kansas City Sweet Adelines Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

**Mike Schumacher** (right) - In grateful recognition for organizing and managing the sound, stage setup and other logistical support for the 2007 Heart of America/Kansas City Sweet Adelines Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

**Bob Rutherford** (not pictured) - In recognition for your work as Ticket Chairman and for organizing and managing the ticket sales for the 2007 Heart of America/Kansas City Sweet Adelines Holiday Harmony Spectacular. ♥

## Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Ron McIntire

### Alex Scott - September 2007

In grateful recognition for sharing your culinary "Green Thumb" expertise, cooking 'dogs and 'burgers at the 2007 annual HOA picnic at Lake Quivira, Sept. 23, 2007. ♥

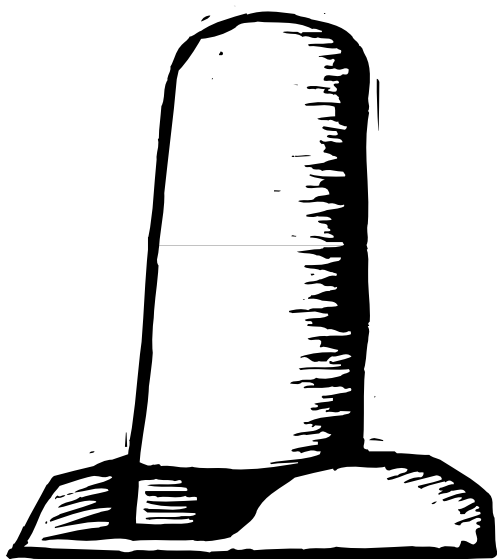


Brad Dawdy

October 2007 - The above shows *some* of the 31 volunteers who helped with the 2007 District Convention and Contest in Kansas City, Oct 19-21. *Well done!*

Gordon Coleman  
Kathleen Murphy  
Mike Owen  
Mike Schumacher  
Vince Perry  
Harry Stewart  
Linda Schumacher  
Jim Bagby  
Ron McIntire  
Martin Oldehoeft  
Joann Bagby  
Kevin Tritsch  
Sharon Oldehoeft  
Jefi Combs  
John Warrior  
Dale Neuman

Mary Jo Miller  
Val Putzier  
Linda Fuson  
Jon Gathright  
Dessie Gathright  
Bill Campsey  
Eilene Campsey  
Jan Mathieu  
Margo Owen  
Carl Turlin  
Marci Turlin  
Sandy Burdick  
Don Fuson  
Bob Howard  
Carter Combs



## 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 tip 'O the Old noggin' cover to **Kent McClean, Bob Rutherford** and the show committee for their work on the Harmony Spectacular and to the many unsung and unrewarded heroes who helped horse the risers onto the stage and off the stage after the show was over, at the 2007 Harmony Spectacular, Dec. 1, 2007.

Hats off to the 78+ guys and Sweet Adelines who made the 2007 Harmony Spectacular a resounding success.

A big Tip 'O the Hat to **Mike Mathieu, Bob Burdick, Jim (one-arm-wavin') Bagby, Jerry Garrard, Carter Combs** and the 39 guys who braved cold and bad weather to sing for the Salvation Army. Neither snow, sleet, rain or the dead of night shall deter these dedicated barbershoppers from their appointed rounds.

As past chapter president, past Central States District president and past Society board member, *HOA* was blessed to have **Ron Abel** perform a top-notch installation of chapter officers for 2008! *Great job, Ron!* ♥



# REMEMBER: 28 IN '08!

## Heart of America CHORUS SPONSORS

*Sheridan's*  
**FROZEN CUSTARD**  
MADE FRESH ALL DAY

  
**FedEx Kinko's.**  
Office and Print Center

**HELZBERG  
DIAMONDS**

**Marriott.**  
KANSAS CITY  
DOWNTOWN



  
**First Watch.**  
BREAKFAST • BRUNCH • LUNCH

### Support the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus!

Consider being a sponsor to financially assist the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus*. *HOA* has been performing in our community for over 60 years and will continue to educate youngsters about the fun and excitement of four-part harmony. *HOA* is one of the top 15 choruses in world and a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Founded in Kansas City in 1938, the Barbershop Harmony Society has over 800 chapters and over 30,000 members worldwide. *HOA* has hosted several District and International Conventions to the Kansas City community in the last 50 years. These events have an economic impact of over \$50,000,000 to our community. In 2011, Kansas City will, for the sixth time, host the International Convention. The *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* needs your support. Note that *HOA* "is Kansas City" wherever they appear on the International stage.

Thanks for your continued financial support to the *Heart of America Barbershop Chorus* and the economic growth in the Kansas City community.

#### Donor levels:

<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$10,000 and above</b>
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$5,000 - \$9,999</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>\$1,000 - \$4,999</b>
<b>Promoter</b>	<b>\$500 - \$999</b>
<b>Supporter</b>	<b>\$250 - \$499</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$100 - \$249</b>
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>up to \$99</b>

All donations over \$100 receive a "Friend of HOA" pin.

Make Checks out to - HOA Chorus 2008 -

Please send to:

**Harvey Shapiro**, Treasurer  
Heart of America Barbershop Chorus  
1117 SW Pacific Dr.  
Lee's Summit, MO 64081-3242



## HOA Director Search Update

by Doug Brott, Chairman  
Director Search Committee



As of this writing, we are nearing the end of the search. The last audition is Jan. 8. On Jan. 15, we will take

time from our normal rehearsal schedule to hear comments from the chorus. This will be the opportunity for chorus members to voice their thoughts to the Search Committee. As quickly as we can after the 15th the Search Committee will meet to make a final selection. After discussion with that person and agreement on a package, the Search Committee will request a special board meeting to present the final candidate and package. If accepted, we would anticipate the new director to start immediately.

We want to thank the whole HOA family for the support shown this committee during this long process. We certainly had hoped to be able to complete our task faster than we did. But we had been told by folks from other chapters like ours that had gone through the same process recently to expect it to take six to eight months. So, I guess we are right in line with that expectation.

I know that whoever is chosen will be accorded the support that our HOA Family is famous for. ♥

## It's Singing Valentine Time

by Marlin Weidler and John Erwine, 2008 Singing Valentine co-chairmen



By the time you get this, Christmas and New Year's eve will have come and gone, and a new year will be in full swing. One of the first events for the *Heart of America Chorus* is the annual "Singing Valentines" campaign, which involves members of the chapter in either a singing or supportive capacity.

Please join me in welcoming **John Erwine** as this year's co-chairman for the 2008 committee. John will be working with me in getting everything organized and will be supervisor of the hotel headquarters on Feb. 13 and 14.

You're probably asking "How I can be part of this event?" You can be a member of a quartet, or you can provide support by working at the headquarters. Prior to the 13th and 14th, we'll have a session to organize the orders already received and get bags all put together. There will more on the time and place as we closer.

Items are coming together for this event, such as the Helzberg Diamonds' donation of a diamond pendant that will be given away to one of our lucky winners, as well as some Sweetheart Hotel Stays. The headquarters hotel will once again be the Marriott South, located not far from our Tuesday evening meeting site.

There are still items that will need to be located, so that the event runs smoothly. We're still looking for a laser printer and lap top computers. If you're able to lend one of these items, please contact John Erwine or me.

If you're not in a quartet and would like to be, please inform John or me, and we'll do our best to get three other members to sing with you. Learning media are available on the HOA members' site. Sheet music for the medley can be obtained from various members, or you can learn three love songs. As a quartet member, you'll be helping in delivering over 150 singing valentines, a box of candy, flowers and a specially designed card.

So get your voices ready for two days filled with fun as we deliver valentines to that someone special. ♥



## The Songs We Sing

Compiled by Wade Dexter; Source: Internet

**Vincent Youmans** was born in New York City in 1898 and was as esteemed in the 1920s and 1930s as his contemporary, **George Gershwin**. The son of a prosperous hatter, he left college to join the Navy at age 17. The bandmaster, **John Phillip Sousa**, encouraged his music and had every Navy band play Youmans' "Hallelujah."

In 1919, Youmans worked as the pianist assisting Victor Herbert in rehearsing singers, which he sites as an incredible learning experience. He wrote his first Broadway show in 1921 with young **Ira Gershwin**, "Two Little Girls in Blue." By 1924, he enjoyed enormous success with "No, No, Nanette," which became the first Broadway show to tour the world and produced "I Want To Be Happy" and "Tea for Two" with **Irving Caesar's** lyrics.

In 1927, **Leo Robin** and **Clifford Grey** added lyrics to "Hallelujah" for "Hit the Deck." The show also featured "Sometimes I'm Happy," a song from a failed 1925 show, given new lyrics by Irving Caesar. 1929's "Great Day" produced "More Than You Know" and "Without a Song" with **Billy Rose** and **Edward Eliscu**. Two of Youmans' most beautiful songs are "Time On My Hands" (1930), written with **Harold Adamson** and **Mack Gordon**, and "Through the Years" (1932), written with **Edward Heyman**. In 1933, he scored the film, "Flying Down To Rio," with its lively title cut, "Orchids in the Moonlight," and "Carioca," with lyrics by **Gus Kahn** and Eliscu.

Youmans contracted tuberculosis, but he loved the night life and did not slow down, contributing to his early demise. His output was small, but each tune was expertly crafted. He died in Denver, Colorado, in April of 1946. ♥







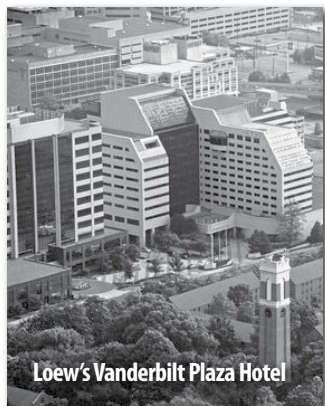
# The Loews Vandy is HOA's Home in Nashville

by Vince Perry, Chorus Manager



PERRY

The locals say "Vandy" but the front door says Vanderbilt; it's the Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. This July it will say LVP-Home of HOA! The LVP is right across the street from the entrance to the Vanderbilt University, located in an exclusive part of town while being just 5 minutes (1.7 miles southwest) from downtown. It's a large hotel with 340 rooms however HOA is the only chorus staying there! So there should be no problem in rehearsing at times of our choosing in their spacious Symphony Ballroom on the main floor.



Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel

You might be wondering how we got this hotel when the headquarters' hotel, The Renaissance and the contest venue, the Sommet Center, formally the Gaylord Center, are both located downtown. Here's the deal. 30 choruses had a drawing to see who got to make their hotel selection first, second, third, etc. We came in twenty-sixth and as a consequence we received our seventh pick. Our first five picks were downtown hotels which were all snatched up by the

choruses with higher draws. Still the Loew's Vanderbilt Plaza is a good fit for us and transportation should be no problem as shuttle buses will be running continuously from all the Vandy Hotels to the Renaissance and to the Sommet Center for all events.

The chorus contest this year is on July 4th so start planning accordingly as our first Nashville rehearsal will most likely be on Wednesday, July 3rd in the afternoon to early evening. NOW is the time to make a commitment to singing with HOA in Nashville this summer. It is a new destination for HOA which in itself is exciting! At present we have a block of rooms in the LVP on hold. To lock these room in so we will not lose them we must submit a detailed reservation list to the Nashville Visitors Bureau by March 1. To expedite this I will have a HOA Nashville Reservation Form online in a couple of weeks.

If at this point you are not sure if you and/or your spouse will be going to Nashville it is still in the best interest of yourself and the chorus to go ahead and make a hotel reservation. We can always cancel a reservation but we can not always get another room after we turn back our excess rooms to the whole convention. So please make your room reservation soon; it will not cost you anything to make a reservation.

Registrations (tickets), not to be confusing with reservations (rooms) were ordered for the HOA group back in November. We have eighty seats in our section. If you have not ordered your tickets yet you should do so as soon as possible. The price goes up (again!) if you wait until the convention and seating options are usually limited to upper balcony only come July. At present I do not know which section HOA is in but as soon as I find out I will make an announcement. For a few weeks I'm sure you will be able to still get good

seats in the arena if ordered for a small group of two to four. Though I am not planning on making another group order I will be happy to assist anyone who needs help with the ordering process.

You will have lots of opportunities to sign up for different events and things associated with HOA going to Nashville this summer. Please be proactive and get your sign ups done in a timely manner. Read each *InTune* from cover to cover each week and read all your chorus emails from beginning to end. If you have a friend who you know does not have email, then please make it a point to keep him in the loop. If you are absent on a Tuesday night then make it a point to visit the [HOAChorus.com](http://HOAChorus.com) member page and read the *InTune*. We are only as strong as we are informed. Let's make Nashville our finest International Contest ever! *Onward and upward, HOA!* ♥

(P.S. Many thanks to **Al Higgins** for attending the FAM trip to Nashville in my place. His attendance and input were invaluable in getting us to this point in the planning phase for Nashville 2008!) ♥

## While We Wait by Carl Turlin, Program VP



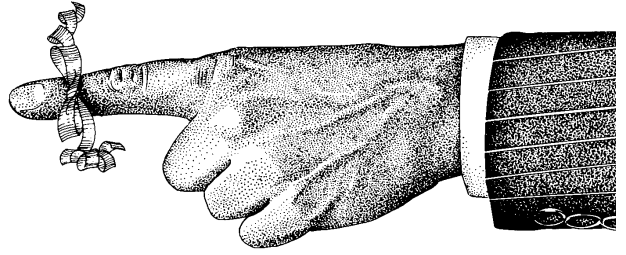
TURLIN

Well gents, it seems like we've got some time between directors here. Seems kind of weird to me, to see a parade of four folks go by, strutting their stuff, to lead us into battle, as it were. Speaking of battle, I'm not sure who we're fighting. To speak from the devil's advocate's position for a moment, maybe we're doing battle with our own bad singing and performing habits. Perhaps we're looking for someone who we will allow to untrain our bad habits into consistent, high-quality good habits and enhance the good habits that we do have. After all, throughout the history of the HOA, we've had a number of different directors, and of course, we've had a number of different singers come and go at the same time. What I'm driving at is this: how much of the "blame/accountability" of our choral singing is due to the director and how much is due to we singers?

Still speaking as the devil's advocate, no matter who the director is, if he/she doesn't have high quality sound production to work with from us, we ain't goin' too far, are we? Where does that high quality sound production come from? Seems to me that it comes from high quality practice before we get in front of the director. Doesn't it seem that way to you? That brings to mind several actions, such as: listening and singing to **Paul Mayo's** voice instruction tape, listening to our learning media, taping ourselves at rehearsal and listening to our tape at home to improve our sound production, quarteting more than during singing Valentines, and asking our section leader for some individual coaching on a specific song or singing technique.

I hope that whoever is in front of us, whatever night and wherever we sing, can trust us to bring our warmed-up, practiced, high quality sound to work with. It may sound trite, but when some of us are not producing high quality sound, guess what kind of sound we put out as a chorus? Guess I'm advocating that each of us, including yours truly, actually does something different to improve our individual sound production! Got some good ideas? Let me know and as PVP, I'll do what I can to implement those good ideas! ♥

# Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- Feb. 13-14** HOA Singing Valentines
- Feb. 16** Harmony Explosion at Olathe East High School, 14545 W. 127th St., Olathe, Kans.
- March 1** HOA sings at Colonial Presbyterian for an evening songfest, 7 pm
- March 28** HOA Technical Rehearsal at JCCC
- March 29** 62nd Annual Show at Yardley Hall in The Carlson Center, in the Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, Kans., 2 pm & 7:30 pm
- April 26** Topeka Chapter Show, 7 pm
- May 16-17** HOA Retreat in Excelsior Springs
- June 2** Kansas City Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society founded in 1938
- July 1-5** 2008 Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest, Nashville Tenn.  
(HOA sings 6th in the afternoon on Friday, July 4)

*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.*

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