

Harmonotes

July 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 7

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK by Jim Bagby



There's so much good news these days about our musical program, I dunno where to begin. But the most encouraging item has to be the quality of the numbers we have ready to edit for the HOA CD. This should be one successful project, thanks to a lot of work by a lot of people.

We have all our songs chosen for the Dec. 6 Holiday Show, and most of the 8-part stuff. And we're in the process of choosing some dandy new numbers for the spring show and next year's repertoire; we'll probably be starting on some of that about the time you read this.

The Music Team also agreed we're going to resume individual vocal coaching, starting with the raft of quality new members who've joined lately. We'll extend the program to other members as time allows. *Continued on page 3* ☞



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No dust settling on these guys!

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These four guys are also keeping a full schedule!

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HARMONY HALL SOLD?

ToneHenge and family hauls their harmony to the hall for one last huzzah!

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A LOOK AT THE PAST

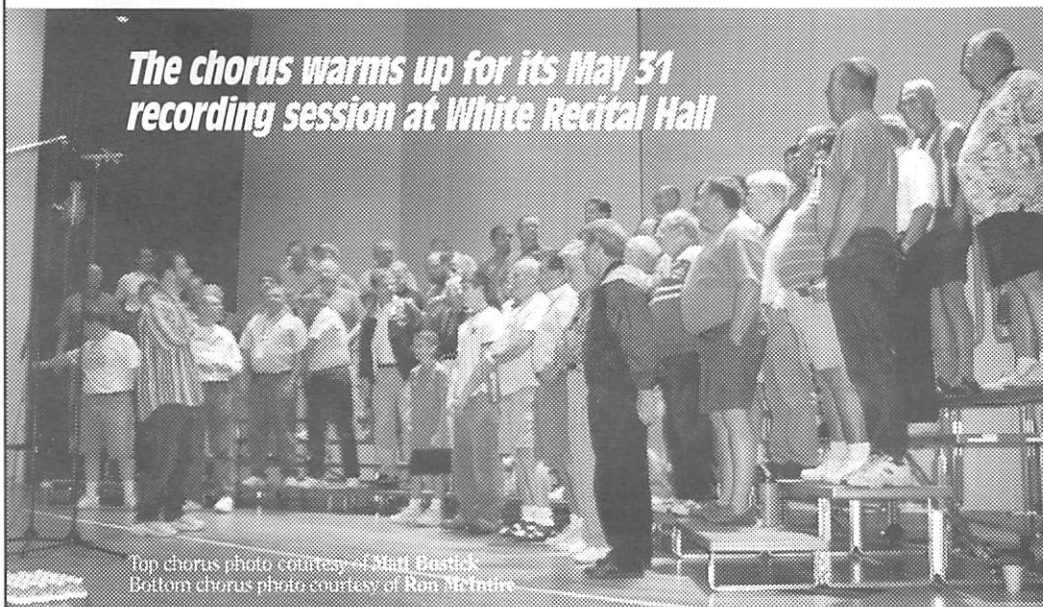
Wade Dexter provides us with a glimpse of more HOA heritage. Downright interesting reading!

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ROD RULE WRITES

Rod provides us with an update on his health at the "half-way" point!

The chorus warms up for its May 31 recording session at White Recital Hall



Top chorus photo courtesy of Matt Bastick
Bottom chorus photo courtesy of Ron McIntire

Harmonotes

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

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

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

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday night, at:
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110th & Holmes · Kansas City, MO 64105

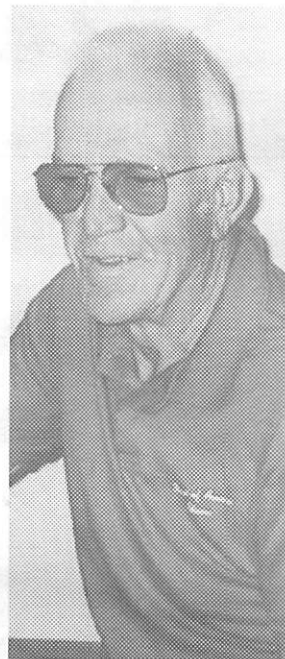
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A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker, Chapter President

Hello all: The performing chorus made HOA history on May 31 when we completed our first of two recording sessions. If you were not there, you missed some amazing things. We recorded 6 songs in somewhat less time than expected. For the most part, the quality of what we heard back was absolutely amazing. To a man, the attention level was excellent! By the time you get this issue of *Harmonotes* we will have completed the second recording session. I can say without a doubt the resulting product of our labor will be wonderful.



The board chose a title for the CD. Thanks to **Bruce Wenner** for submitting "From the Heart." Now we need to get started to make pre-release sales. We will have a chairman for the pre-release sales to go after as many sales as possible. The planned release date is by Christmas 2003. **Vince Perry** will be setting up CD sales from the HOA website. We also need to have all chorus members shake the bushes for potential sales. Doing my math says if we can sell half of the first 1,000, we will have enough money to complete the project without going into debt. (We have budgeted for \$8,000 which will fund the preproduction costs). This means that from a membership base of 130 if each member sells only 5 CD's, we can meet this goal. Selling 5 CD's should not be difficult at all. There just might be some kind of recognition for the top seller be it monetary or other. Stay tuned for more.

We will be busy this summer (so what else is new). Our goal is to qualify for International this fall. We have the best musical package we have ever had in "Auld Lang Syne" and the dynamite up-tune "Changes." Our continuing work with **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** will enable us to give the *Ambassadors* from St. Charles a real scare.

Are you planning on being part of this? If not, why not? In it words of our illustrious Bass Section leader, "Take a chance, Do it right" is very fitting as we work towards our goal. ~

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

(Continued from front cover)

Getting those new members qualified to be part of the CD project—and then the performing chorus—has meant lots of extra work for Membership Veep **Ken Neujahr** and the man who designed most of the plan, bari section leader/ Mr. Dependable **Grant Hunget**.

I'm also encouraged and grateful for the considerable extra work outside of meeting nights that so many members are putting in, to they can be part of the CD (only those who record will have their name on the liner notes). The focus at the first recording session was amazing!

In listening to the raw takes from the June 21st session, so well handled by **Vince Perry**, **Mark Fortino** and **Dan Israel**, one thing pops out that should be of interest to all—especially the over-achievers. We can and must do a better job of what **Bill Biffle** and **David Wright** (and others before) have reminded us: sing the full measure of music every time. Energize one word sound all the way to the next one, or to the cutoff. **Greg Lyne** used to say “put the ‘zing’ in the vowel,” a concept Grant believes firmly in—just ask him.

Then when you listen to your own recording, monitor to see how well you complete every sound. Are the diphthongs there? Breaths in the right place (at the start of the next phrase, instead at the end of this one)?

KEY CHANGES: Wanna feel old? The *Rural Route 4* are singing this month at the wedding of **Willard's** son, **Daniel**...

Keep our Missouri cousin and brilliant baritone **Rob Henry** in your prayers...

Society arm-waver news: **Greg Lyne** has returned, at least on a trial basis, as director of the ILL *Great American Chorus*. He's a four-time gold medal director, with Chicago's *West Towns Chorus* and the *Master of Harmony*. Retired Alexandria leader **Scott Werner**, who also has four golds, is directing a new (or reorganized) chapter in central Florida. ~

Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Cathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

5th Street Four

Niel Johnson (tenor), *Rob Vay (lead),
*Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Varney (bass)

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Don Newman (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

Heartland

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)

New and Used Parts

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

SureFire!

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
*Randy Carney (bari), *Burt Bray (bass)

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Uranium

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

SUREFIRE! SURE STAYS BUSY! by Don Young

It's hard to believe how busy a quartet can become. Thanks to **Dick Korek** and I'm sure other people behind the scenes, we have had and continue to have gigs regularly. We've performed (and I must say—enjoyed every moment) at a convention at Bartle Hall, the “American Cancer Society” on the Plaza, the K.C. Symphony and the “Missouri State Coachmen Caravan” (an RV group) in Higginsville. All of them have been in the last couple of weeks. Obviously that doesn't include HOA rehearsals, quartet rehearsals, taping sessions and—oh, yea—a marriage proposal! More about that in a moment.

Every group was very receptive, especially the RV folks. Their theme was “American Red, White and Blue” so obviously we opened with the national anthem and ended the half hour with the Armed Forces medley. Their response was overwhelming and when they asked for an encore we could hardly get through “Friends.” Coming up is a gig at one of the U.S. Bank branches, coaching with **Bill Biffle**, getting ready for more coaching with **Jim Massey** in July and Harmony College. Thanks “Heartbeats” for choosing **Grant Hunget** for the scholarship. He's kind enough to be sharing it with the quartet. Of course we had to promise to buy him some beer, but that's okay. Now back to the marriage proposal.

For those of you who don't know, **Grant Hunget** and **Michelle Duncan** (of the Kansas City Chorus and *Zing* fame) are now engaged. Grant popped the question Saturday evening after our RV gig with the hole gang there **Jana, Jeffie** and **Michelle's** two children, **Mary Beth** and **Steven**. We sang a couple of songs for them and after “*How Deep is the Ocean*” Carter's grandfather clock chimed and **Mike** said something like “It's time.” So Grant, shaking like a fish, was down on one knee with the ring. Congratulations to Grant and Michelle from the *SureFire!* family.

This is my first quartet and I never knew what it would mean in my life. For those of you not in a quartet, my advice is to try it sometime you may become happily overwhelmed with the results. What a “great hobby” this is! ~



12TH STREET CHAT

by Mark Fortino

June is turning out to be a great month for us. We have a show in Charleston, IL on Saturday the 7th, and are on the *Ambassadors of Harmony* show with a couple of no name gold medalist quartets...*Four Voices* and *Gas House Gang*...on Saturday the 28th. All that gold on one stage, with the economy the way it is, AOH may need extra security, those medals might be the only thing that's retaining its value!

Jim Bagby and **David Krause** continue to be instrumental in our preparations for Montreal. There is no question that we are going to be more prepared than we ever have been going into an International. Thanks guys for all your assistance! If we're successful, maybe we'll even have a coaching session after International where we let you talk more than we do! :)

Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to our dear friend **Rob Henry** of the *Gas House Gang* who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Rob and the *Gang* have been role models in so many many ways for us over the years. We wish him, the Gang and their families God's Blessings. ~



TONE-HENGE GULPED, "OUR HOME'S BEEN SOLD?!"

by Ol' Dan (Henry)



Yep, Harmony Hall has a new owner!

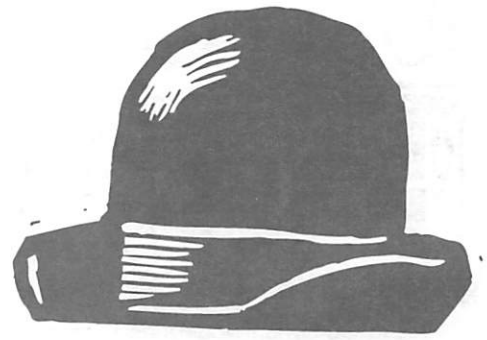
It's been our home for so many years that most of today's barber-shoppers can't remember a time when we lived

somewhere else. And it's such an influential landmark that it was able to cause the name of the street on which it rests to acquire the more fitting and descriptive name, "Harmony Lane."

But, like many growing families, we felt the burden of "making do" in a home that, despite it's grandeur, lacks the practicality of expansion. So, as you know, it's been sold. In a matter of days we'll no longer be able to step inside those hallowed halls and belt out a tag...a fact that us ancient Tone-Hengers could hardly endure! So, Look out, Harmony Hall, 'cause this month, here comes Tone-Henge and 'Henge-ettes' too!

Yessir, this month the eight of us are gonna invade the windy city and then on to Kenosha to ring down the curtain at 6315 Harmony Lane!

Yes, the staff has been forewarned, but they don't seem to mind. In so many words they've indicated that the halls have endured many powerful, ringing chords in the past, and they don't think Tone-Henge can do any harm. I hope they don't find out about our ability to crack plaster. ~



A TIP OF THE HAT!

1. A TOTH to **Jim Bagby** and his *Cardiac Choraliers* (or is it Caroliers) for their performance for HOA Jun 3, 2003.
2. A big TOTH to **Vince "Every Man's Man" Perry** for taking care of the HOA Chorus on Saturday May 31 while the first half of the HOA CD was being recorded. *And Hey!* Did you see the neat work he did on the HOAChorus.com website to help get the chorus to the venue and make sure they knew everything they needed to know to get there?
3. A TOTH to the *Heartbeats* helping to feed the chorus of 60 on May 31 during the HOA CD recording session.
4. A TOTH to Recording team for helping to produce an excellent CD.
5. Another TOTH to **Vince Perry** for helping to set up White Recital Hall on the UMKC campus for the HOA CD recording session. What an excellent facility it is.
6. For the directing work by **Jim Bagby**, **Mike Neff** and **Carter Combs** during the HOA CD recording session.
7. A giant TOTH to the 60 chorus members who made the first half of the CD recording session a memorable experience; who paid close attention to **Jim**, **Mike** and **Carter** during the rehearsal and subsequent recording; and for working hard to make this a top-quality recording.
8. To **Ron McIntire** for printing the 20 certificates of graduation for the graduates of DK's Music Class 101. ~

JUST FOUR FUN

Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/
or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!

YOU GOTTA LOVE KIDS!

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by
TUESDAY, JULY 22
For more information,
call Todd at 816-373-8633

Ten Years Ago- July, 1993

The *Heart of America* chapter finished in 14th place in the international chorus contest in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The other CSD representative in the competition, the *Ambassadors of Harmony* from St. Charles, outscored us by only 15 point and came home with 12th place. A lot has happened to that outfit in the past ten years. They also fielded the 1993 quartet champions, the *Gas House Gang*.

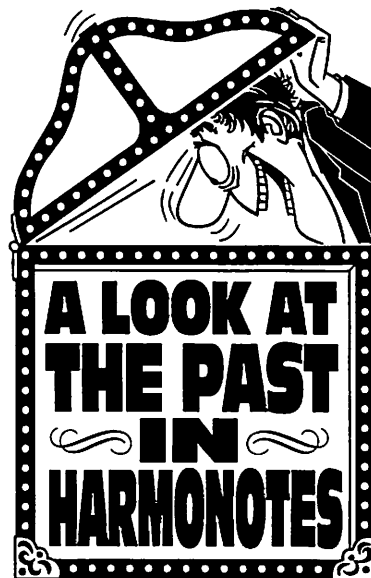
May God bless the *Heartbeats*!

In 1993, using money raised via garage sales and a quilt raffle, they presented each Calgary-bound singer with a check for \$50 for a total of \$4,000! Wasn't that something?

The winner of the "Spring Fling" intrachapter quartet contest was the *Calgary-Bound Sound*, with members **Mike Mathieu** (tenor), **Mark Fortino** (lead), **Scott Trusty** (baritone), and **Ron McIntire** (bass). I'm sure nobody cares, but the second place finisher, was the *Tag Rags* with **Matt Bostick** (tenor), **Darrell McCune** (lead), **Harvey Doemland** (baritone), and **Wade Dexter** (bass).

Thirty Years Ago - July, 1968

There were two new quartets—the *Digits*, with **Don Wickens**, **Jon Wlznak**, **George Closson** and **Dave Larson**—and the *Heights of Harmony* (all 25 feet, 7 inches of them) with **Bob** and **Harold Wesley**, **Dick Ham** and **Joe Costigan**. They would join the *Merry Mugs* and the *BMA Skyliners*. And as **Jerry Kelley** puts it (he must have been the quartet development chairman), "If we can only get the *Missouri Pewkes* registered, we'll reach our goal—that is to have five quartets from the [HOA] chapter in the district contest this fall." Although HOA had not qualified to represent the CSD in the 1968 international contest in Cincinnati (that honor went to the chorus from Cedar Rapids), the Kansas City chapter would present a prominent silhouette at the convention, according to Editor **Don Thorne**. First of all, Kansas City would be bidding for the 1972 international convention (it went to Atlanta), then we expected that international First Vice-President **Bob Gall** would be elected to the Society presidency by the Board of Directors (he was), one of whom was our own C.V. "Pete" **Peterson**, who would also be on the judges panel for the chorus contest. But that's not all. Guess who would be the MC for the Saturday evening quartet finals. Of course, it was one of the best in the Society, our own **Dan Henry**. *Continued on page 7* ➤



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Fifty-Two Years Ago - July 5, 1951

Editor **Ham Meisinger** admits that the July 4 holiday activities kept him from putting out an informative bulletin, but he was able to include the following item that may be of interest to some of you real old-timers:

"The *Hy-Power Serenaders* recently sang at the annual dinner for incoming and outgoing interns and resident physicians at the General Hospital. It is reported that several of our doctor members have some real musical talent in addition to singing. **Dr. Bob Bristol** as well as **Dr. John Myers** can really get 'hepped up' on a wind instrument, which they demonstrated in conjunction with this dinner.

The *Hy-Power Serenaders* have made some more records including 'Honkey-Tonkey Town,' 'Oh, By Jingo,' and 'Rural Rhythm. These recordings were made at the Artists Recording Studio in the Land Bank building and can be obtained there." Anybody ever hear of these songs or the recording company? What happened to the Land Bank building? ~

GENTLEMAN OF NOTE

by Rod Rule



As most of you probably know by now, I have had a bout with NON-HODGKINS-LYMPHOMA and a blood clot. As of now I've had two rounds of chemotherapy, the first of which was back in mid-May, and again last week. I will have another catscan to see what progress has been made, before the next treatment. All of this has not,

however, totally put me out of singing with the quartet!!

G.O.N. made the trip up to CSD's Heartland Harmony Happening at Missouri Western State College June 6th - 7th. A big "Thank You" goes to **Raymond Schwarzkopf**, who gave us some great help Friday night, beings that he had the time available. The scheduled coaches did not all get there Friday. We also got some great coaching/pointers from the *Noise Boys* on Saturday, and definitely felt we got our money's worth!! However, I had to give-it-up after the first coaching session after lunch on Saturday. But, hey...more of our HOA quartets should take advantage of HHH!!!

Last Thursday evening, June 12th, we sang for the Olathe Good Samaritan Nursing Center's Father's Day celebration. Following that we treated our wives to a delicious dinner at J. Gilbert's Restaurant in Overland Park. Being rather "stuck at home" a good bit of the time, the quartet has been a great outlet to keep the emotions on the brighter side! There's nothing like singing barbershop to lift the spirits! At this point I'm half-way through the treatment plan and progressing reasonably well. I really appreciate all your cards, calls, prayers, etc., and look forward to seeing you all again soon! Thanks! ~

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



Connie and I just got back from a 2 week vacation cruise. That's a long time to be gone and a long time to go without barbershop. It was a great vacation, but I'm glad to be back. It was a really good feeling to walk into the chapter meeting on June 10 and hear the wonderful sounds of HOA again. I'm very glad to hear from the members of the Music Team that the recording session on May 31 was well attended and well done. I

hope it goes as well on June 21.

It's gratifying to know that I can go on vacation for 2 weeks and be confident that all things musical will be taken care of in good order. We have a fantastic group of guys on the Music Team and I'd like to thank each one of them for doing a super job. So here goes—thanks to **Jim, Mike, Carter, Grant, Bruce, Jerry, Kent, Dennis, Phil, Don, Shawn, Mark** and **Vince**. Having people like these doing their jobs makes my job a lot easier. I'll bet you didn't even know I was gone. ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY *to the following chapter members!*

Lito McCurdy	July 5
Marvin Faulwell	July 6
Alex Scott	July 10
Alfred Moritz	July 12
Matthew Moore	July 18
Jake Pirner	July 19
Mike Neff	July 21
Cal Yoder	July 22
Paul Raikula	July 24
David Miller	July 26
Niel Johnson	July 28
Vince Perry	July 30



Heart of America



July-August Calendar

- June 29-July 5** International SPEBSQSA Convention, Montreal
July 19 Music team planning, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Jim's House**
July 27 - Aug. 3 Harmony College, Missouri Western, St. Joseph
Aug. 12 (Tuesday) **Bill Biffle** HOA coaching
Aug. 16 (Saturday) **Dwain Brobst** HOA coaching
Aug. 24 HOA Park Concert, Overland Park

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