

HARMONOTES



The Monthly Bulletin of Kansas City's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE

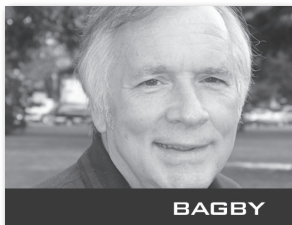


SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 3 - MARCH 2007

Hale Has Chorus Running Laps Toward March Show, Denver

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



BAGBY

Who'd have thunk it? *The Heart of America Chorus* lead section running a lap after failing to satisfy a demanding out-of-town coach on a particular point. "Well," deadpanned **Mark Hale**, "how else are you gonna' punish barbershoppers?"

So on an intense Saturday in late February, almost every member of the lead section responded with good nature and took off for a lap around the rehearsal hall. Later on, the baris were threatened with the same knuckle rap, but got their act—or pitch— together just in time. That was just an indication of how hard everyone was working and pulling together during the productive, day-long coaching session with the west coast master.

Elsewhere in this issue you can find some specific reminders from Mark about things we need to remember, every time we sing and carrying over into every performance. The first indication of our progress will be the March 17 show at Yardley Hall—our first venture for the annual spring outing beyond the venerable downtown Music Hall. It should be an exciting time, with many new audience members.

Individually, nothing can be more important than recording yourself, listening for the tall, vertical, rounded sound that can be described, in a oversimplified way, as "tuck the target sounds inside your mouth." In other words, avoid splattered, horizontal singing. We found a richer, fuller chorus sound when everyone brought more head tone, more "O" shape to the sound, with less volume. It's the same "corporate" sound we worked toward at the retreat, but have not yet mastered.

And as Mark noted time and again, it takes only one voice deviating from the pitch, or fighting the O-shaped target sound, to disrupt the unity and purity of what we want to achieve. So that goes back to what Chris Smith has been telling us in warm-ups: 90 percent listening, 10 percent singing.

We heard it happen Feb. 24 when we sang "Harmony," our show opener. It rang, with less mouth movement, and again, more focused sound. This is not something that we're going to do overnight, or automatically. And one of the interesting comments was that the best voices may have the most work to do, because they have to take out more of their vocal characteristics to avoid sticking out of the river of sound.

The question is: how much individual work are we willing to do to produce that rich sound that makes "dancing overtones tingle in our bones?" If you were there in Mark's session, I think I know what your answer is. I hope I do. It will make a lot of difference in how we prepare for international competition in Denver, where Mark challenged us—"why not shoot for an 87 score or two?" Or we can just run a few laps...

Speaking of "Harmony," here's the complete show order for March 17:

<i>Harmony</i>	Arr. by David Wright
<i>With a Wink and a Smile</i>	Arr. by Kim Brittain
<i>When There's Love at Home</i>	Arr. by Tom Gentry
<i>Mighty Fine</i> , Kansas City and Topeka chapters	
(Tom Elefson, Jerry Garrard, Guy Anderson, Don Suffron)	

(Continued on page 2 ♦♦)

Hale Has Chorus Running Laps Toward March Show, Denver

(Continued from page 8)

Don't Blame Me Arr. by **Lou Perry**
When I Lift Up My Head Arr. by **David Wright**
Taking a Chance on Love Arr. by **Jay Giallombardo**
Happy Together Arr. **David Wright**

Quadio, Kansas City and St. Joseph chapters
 2006 CSD Champions:
(Rob Mathieu, Michael Troyer, Grant Hunget, Matt Moore)

12th Street Rag, Kansas City, St. Charles and Papillion,
 Neb., Chapters – 2006 International Semifinalists (**Micah
 Jeppeson, Mark Fortino, John Fortino, Barry Moore**)

----- 15-Minute Intermission -----

Singalong with **Dan Henry**

Harmony Explosion quartets, introduced by **Tony Strub**
 [junior highs matinee, seniors at night]

Command Performance (**Carter Combs, Jon Gathright,
 Rich Huyck, Monty Duerksen**)

Tone-Henge (**Bruce Wenner, Dan Henry, Jim Bagby,
 Keith Schweer**)

It's A Small World After All - Soloist **Anthony Fortino**, with
12th Street Rag, Command Performance, HOA Chorus

The Humdingers, Walt Disney World, Orlando, Fla.
 (Tenor **Dan Bullock**, Lead **Steve Culpepper**, Baritone **Neel
 Tyree**, Bass **Aaron Stratton**)

Heart of America Chorus

Time after Time Arr. Ed Waesche

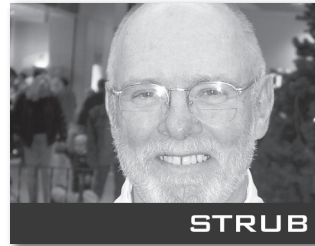
Raising the Bar [night show only] (**Stephen Duncan, An-
 drew Meier, Jonathan Fortino, Anthony Fortino**)

Runnin' Wild Arr. By David Wright

Finale: America the Beautiful Arr. Joe Liles ♥

Young People Love Barbershop

by Tony Strub, HOA President



Our 11th annual Harmony Explosion event held on Feb. 17 at Olathe East High School was a wonderful musical experience for 230 middle and high school students from 17 schools in Kansas and Missouri. The students enjoyed all of the activities of the day both as participants

and as spectators. The audience of students, teachers, parents and guests were thrilled and gave an enthusiastic standing ovation to the performance of *Zing!* at the morning assembly and to *Three Men & A Melody* in the afternoon session.

The organization and schedule of the day went smoothly. The 51 registered quartets went through the preliminary competition in the morning with six quartets in each of four divisions moving on to the finals in the afternoon. The performances were very competitive. The difference between first and second place in one division was a single point. The quality of singing of these young people seems to improve every year. The gold medal quartet winner in the junior girls division was *Jems* from Pioneer Trail Jr. High in Olathe. HOA's own *Raising The Bar* (at-large entry) won gold in the junior boys division. *RCI Shamones* from Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Kansas was the winner in the senior girls division. *Hubcaps* (at-large entry) took first place in the senior boys division. These young quartets will be a very entertaining addition to our Spring Show.

In an effort to improve and expand our Harmony Explosion program, we sent evaluation forms back to the schools with the teachers so that the students and the teacher could anonymously evaluate their experience. Although all of the evaluations are not in at this point, the clear indication is that the students love singing four-part harmony in the barbershop style. These kinds of activities and programs are the future of our society.

I want to thank *Zing!*, *Three Men & A Melody*, Clinicians **Chris Droegemueller** and **Helen Shores**, our MC **Jim Bagby**, section leaders, judges, score keepers, pattern supervisors, the administration and music department of Olathe East High school and all of the volunteers from the *Heart of America Chorus* and the *Kansas Chorus of Sweet Adelines* for their very valuable contribution. Without their help, Harmony Explosion would not happen. I would like to extend a very special thanks to **Al Higgins**, Harmony Explosion Director Emeritus, for guiding and helping me through the many aspects of our program. His knowledge, hard work and expertise were invaluable to our success. ♥

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF HARMONOTES:

MARCH 21



HOA Delivers Over 150 Singing Valentines

by Marlin Weidler, HOA 2007 SV Chairman



WEIDLER

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Valentines program has come and gone and for the most part, I believe a fun time was had by all. It takes a lot of hard work and man hours to receive, process and deliver Singing Valentines. And for a volunteer organization, it takes lots of people to step forward and assist.

There were close to 200 control numbers used this year, while the paid deliveries totaled 155. That was down from last year (184) but ice and sub-freezing weather did play a part as schools and some businesses were closed. I would like to take this time to thank all who helped in one form or another.

If you called the answering service to order a Valentine or just dialed the number to listen to it, you were able to hear **Thom Tisdall's** voice. Thom volunteered his wonderful speaking voice to tell about the Singing Valentine cost, areas of delivery, prizes and the upcoming March show.

Vince Perry was busy with the Singing Valentines web site, making changes as requested and getting it operational. Vince also processed the credit card information for the Singing Valentine orders.

It was hectic to say the least at the headquarters hotel but it survived with very few problems. I would like to thank **Ron McIntire, Bob Murphy** and **Dick O'Dell** for all the hard work they put into receiving the orders and organizing them. They were not alone as we had several other people assisting in working the center. Thanks also go to **Mike Mathieu** and **Jeffi Combs**, and a big thank you to **JoAnn Karaff** and **Pat Ross** of the *KC Sweet Adeline's* chapter.

And a special hug and nod to my top assistant at headquarters and through the whole process, my wife, **Bev**.

I have done Singing Valentines for many years and I can only remember silk roses being delivered. After checking with several flower shops, I finally contacted someone I knew at Tobler's Flowers, thinking I could get a discount. How exciting it was to hear that they would partner with us in this event and donate the fresh roses.

A special "Thank You!" needs to go to **Dick Irwin** for getting up early in the morning to drive downtown KC, pick up the roses, put them in his van and deliver them to the headquarters. Dick not only was busy with delivering the roses, but also sang in a quartet on Wednesday.

The Russell Stover candies were also provided at no cost to the chapter. A big thanks to thank **John Landry** for contacting the famed Kansas City company and making arrangements. If you noticed, these boxes were larger than the ones we have used in previous years. The amount they provided was less than last year but we still had left over boxes that were sold and the proceeds will go to our primary SV charity, Children's Mercy Hospital.

The Verizon Wireless cell phones were also provided at no charge to the chapter. **Mike Mathieu** was instrumental in lining up, picking up and returning the phones. Mike also organized a quartet to go around and sing to the various groups that donated gifts or products to this year's Singing Valentine program.

Phil Veltkamp provided the printer, paper and cabling utilized at the headquarters. Last year, **Doug Brott** donated two computers to the chapter. This was the first year they were utilized and we were able to network them to share out the database program, printer and internet access.

I think special recognition needs to go to **Kevin Tritsch**, as he's willing to store all the SV equipment and supplies in his basement.

I would also like to thank **Carl Turlin** for being an additional contact for the quartets and for helping in cleaning up the hotel room at the end of day Wednesday.

Thanks to all the quartets that delivered all the SV's; even though we had some problems with addresses and logistical issues, each did an outstanding job. *HOA's Tone-Henge, Command Performance, Cross Town Four, KC Sound, Four of Accord, EU-Four-EA, KC Chords, Special Delivery, Sound Around Town, Dave Krause, Doug Brott, Eric Weber* and drivers. Also participating were Sweet Adeline quartets *Sound Investment* and *Heart Throbs*. I would also like to thank **Tony Strub** and all the board members for support that was provided me organizing this event.

Most important we need to thank our wives and family for supporting us each year in taking two days, as Bev puts it, to sing to other women. ♥

Winners of this years Helzberg Diamond gift and Sweetheart Stays through the HOA Singing Valentine drawings:

Ladies Diamond Ladder Pendant:

Linda Goldstein, Overland Park, Kan.

This is the first time her husband had bought a Singing Valentine. He had heard about it through the Rotary Club that Command Performance sang for prior to the event.

DoubleTree Hotel Stay:

Glenda Martin, Liberty, Mo.

Courtyard Marriott Stay:

Pat Benyo KC, Mo.

Hyatt Regency Stay:

Lillian & Raymond Rogers, Blue Springs, Mo.

This 80-year-old couple will be celebrating a wedding anniversary this coming summer.

Tone-Henge Busy Lads

by Ol' Dan

That's the first time the terms "lads" and "Tone-Henge" have ever appeared in the same sentence. Others may 'hurrumph', but I think it has a nice ring to it. Anyhow, ancient as we be, we're still "bee" busy !

About the only unusual occurrence during *Tone-Henge's* Valentine rounds was the one that brought a huge smile to the recipient, but tears gushing from a bystander ! Now, the only other time we've been able to create that much sad emotion is when we sang for music educators. They knew their efforts had been in vain.



Photo courtesy of Catina Taylor

Our very best Valentine was our first one (pictured above), for kindergarten teacher **Charlotte Mullin** who had gathered every kindergarten class, maybe 100 ,gorgeous, well-behaved kids into a large room, and had 'em all singing, "I Love You, A Bushel and a Peck." Well, we scored BIG! Some sang along. Some even directed! And **Bagby**, always searching for ways to improve, took notes. If nobody else buys Charlotte a singing Valentine next year, *Tone-Henge* will if we get to do it !

I think we told you we sang for **Sandy Rule's** retirement community, The Palisades. Nice people. Saw Al Benz there. That was early in February. Then after our Valentines duties downtown and the John Knox appearance, we took the 'Henge-ettes' to Yardley Hall to hear the "String Of Pearls" big band concert. What a show! The music never stopped...really! And what great music...it's number 2 after barbershop.

By the time you read this we'll have done the St. Louis Suburban "Corned Beef and Cabbage" Show. Our show at Yardley is St. Pat's Day and then comes Trenton, Mo. and Viborg S.D.

I'm tired. Hand me some slippers and a beer. ♥

Two Days of Deliveries

by Marlin Wediler

EU-Four-EA, made up of **Marlin Weidler** (tenor), **Carl Turlin** (lead), **Don Fuson** (bari) and **Bruce Marston** (bass) sang Feb. 13 & 14. The top photo shows us in action. On the 14th, **Eric Weber**—shown in the bottom photo, at left—drove for us, so we alternated bass on deliveries.

The delivery that sticks out the most was the one we were assigned to deliver down near Gardner, Kan., which requested not love songs but children's songs. We discovered it was for a day care, ordered by the mother of two of the children. *What to sing?* With Bruce being a children's choir director, we came up with "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and then went into "In a Cabin in a Woods." The children loved seeing Bruce doing it in his big voice, then little voice (getting down on hands and knees) and then quiet voice.

We were later surprised on a delivery to a business in Overland Park when we were waiting for the person to return from lunch and we explained what we just did and the mother spoke up: "Those were my children!" How funny! We also get alot of comments on our picture in the *Kansas City Star*," and I have plenty of clips to send to our families. ♥



Photo courtesy of Don Fuson



Sound Around Town Singing Valentines

by Alex Scott

This was the second adventure I had singing valentines, and another three nice guys I got to know. (Hopefully they feel the same way about this guy.) We started out with eight or so, and ended at 11 orders. **Tom Elefson**, our tenor, told us about one of his past years with **Reed Alberg**. After 20 singing valentines, running late, driving everywhere, etc., the quartet walks in and begin the song in a "lickity-splitto cut time" tempo. That brought a good laugh.

Thanks to **Doug "U DOG" Brott**, we had a nice "mini-HQ" to gather, practice, and plan the day. (Tom kept playing "scrabble" with Doug's name on the name board...but U Dog was my favorite.)

I don't know how many miles **Kent Miller** put on his car, but with the four trips in and out Kansas City on K-10, three trips to College and Roe (all of those for the SAME order (that one was a toughie), two times to KCK and one downtown to the Plaza III, it must have been a ton of miles. Contrary to what the rest of 'em said, I thought he did a pretty nice job of navigating to all of our deliveries.

As for me, their lead, well I just hung on for the ride... and learned "Lida Rose" in six hours for a "special request" that evening. You know what? I think we pulled it off pretty well. It was a fun day! Let's do it again next year! ♥



Command Performance Marathon

by Carter Combs

Sing, sing, and then sing some more! That was the modis operandi for *Command Performance* in February. We had more gigs than a four-day frog-leg festival!

We kicked off the "season of love" with two sweetheart banquets. Those got us prepped for our long-anticipated full-length concert at the Emma Chase Café in Cottonwood Falls. Yes, the rumors are true. We did two 40-minute sets, back-to-back, with only a short intermission in between. Sang everything

we knew, and told every politically correct, family friendly joke we remembered...*both of 'em!* As usual, Monty stole the show. Ask him about his bald man's comb! Our sellout audience was attentive and, to the best of our knowledge, no one fell asleep. I know it's an evening we'll long remember.

That memorable evening was quickly followed by Singing Valentines. We had the privilege of representing HOA in a pair of TV spots, as well as some radio work promoting our efforts. Seems to have paid off... I understand there was a surge of orders each time we went off the air. (hmmm... let me rephrase that...)

The 13th and 14th were the usual blur of racing around town, frantically trying to find obscure addresses and occasional meals, playing Cupid's assistant for a couple dozen couples. This year we had the added charm of slippery sidewalks, and trying to ditch our heavy coats at each stop during this unusually wintry holiday. As always, it was a delightful, heart-warming pair of days, filled with weeping ladies and chuckling co-workers.

We were not entirely recovered from that marathon run of performances in time for the chorus show at John Knox, where Jon performed admirably in the face of adversity, or, in this case, with a nasty cold. But probably our most anxious moments were a few days later. We had a performance scheduled for 7 p.m. in Oak Grove, but Rich's re-booked flight wasn't to arrive back in Kansas City until 5 p.m. Luckily, the flight was on time, Rich made record time getting across town, and we were able to perform as a quartet instead of a trio.

But the highlight of our month was definitely on Feb. 9. Immediately following one of our sweetheart banquet performances, we went right across Quivira to Overland Park Medical Center to serenade **Jon** and **Dessie's** granddaughter **Kaelyn Estrada**, born earlier that same day to **Julie** and **Gabe**. What a great month! ♥





Guest Night with the *Ambassadors of Harmony* by Jim Porter

Every once in a while, the desire to spend an evening with my friends across the state becomes strong, and when **Brian Marston** told me the *Ambassadors* planned a Guest Night Feb. 1, plans were made and I joined about 120 *Ambassadors* in their new black casual shirts (a few didn't get the message, like **Tim Waurick**, they were made to wear guest tags!) and 20 or so guests for another night under the capable leadership of **Jim Henry** and his music team as they prepared their men for the upcoming International competition. It's been 15 years now since I've sung with this chapter on a regular basis, and probably one-third of those men were people I remember from those days. They all made me feel most welcome, and the first thing was to be sure each guest was near an *Ambassador* singing their part. I got to stand in front of **Bill Benner**, lead from *Expanded Sound*, and one with a beautiful lead voice that does not overwhelm you but invites you to match your voice with his and hear it swell into something wonderful. Their plan for the evening was simple—it was a typical rehearsal night, nothing special, so the guests would get a taste of what life is like as a member of the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. (They might have taken that a little too far, they never did get around to introducing the guests to everyone!)

We first took on their ballad for Denver, "They'll Never Believe Me," and it was vintage Jim Henry in action. Those of you who remember his visit to *HOA* know that on the one hand he is a very exacting taskmaster but on the other hand he is one of the most loving guys you could ever meet. It's been

said that a great leader is one who can get you to do something you don't want to do, and let you enjoy the experience! A good leader is an expert in his craft, but not all experts are leaders. Jim is a leader. He truly loves his men, and never hesitates to say it. He took on the song phrase by phrase, had his men sing it over and over again until it was just right, then exclaim something like "That's it! You guys are wonderful! How privileged I am to be your director!" At the end of an hour-plus of intense work, all sang the song through for recording purposes (yes, they qualify for contest the same way we do). It was my feeling throughout as I struggled with the sheet music (obviously less well prepared than the regulars around me) that I was getting a workout, but I was enjoying the experience of hearing my voice blend in with the awesome sound around me. And yes, I was in a good section of the chorus—Jim Henry didn't once have to glare in our direction!

When it was time to take on the up-tune "Fit As A Fiddle" they asked all the guests to go to another room for a special presentation. I joined them there, so had no chance to work on the up-tune (maybe another time). I'm sitting there as they related what it takes to become a member of the *Ambassadors* and who's who in the leadership team, and marvelling. I looked at the fellow next to me and observed "Here is one of the best chorus directors in the world, one of the best arrangers in the world, and the four guys who are the section leaders form the currently reigning International championship quar-

ter—what more could you ask for?" The poor fellow looked back at me with this deer-in-the-headlights look—I hope I didn't upset him too much!

After we got together again, *Vocal Spectrum* did a couple of their songs (Tim Waurick has grown some hair on his face, I reckon he's tiring of all those references about his puberty), which we all enjoyed, of course. The chorus then did a few tags and touched on several of their other repertoire numbers. They are pointing toward their retreat March 24, which ends with a show that evening. I left behind several flyers for our show and invited them to trek across the state and hear us out. Perhaps a few will do that. Brian now has the flyers and can keep the date in front of them. (Brian also introduced me to the other guys in his quartet, which made their debut doing *Singing Valentines*.) Before I knew it, we were doing one last tag and it was 10:30 and time to quit.

I went to Jim Henry afterwards to thank him and a couple of the *Vocal Spectrum* guys were there as well, and asked them if they would permit me to sing a tag. They said "sure" and after some shuffling of parts I was the lead on the last tag we did together that evening, and just launched in as clear and strong as I could with quality, they did their parts as only they can do. It was a wonderful feeling, Jim Henry smiled and said "That really rang well!" and I was ready to ride Cloud Nine out of there. My loving wife said it well. I need a barber-shop "fix" from time to time, and I just had one! I'm already looking forward to next time! ♥





Another reason not to miss one of the best barbershop experiences on earth

Ambassadors of Harmony Added to the Saturday Night Show at Harmony U!

taken from LiveWire!



The *Ambassadors of Harmony*, a chorus of 155 men, has an extensive a cappella repertoire, including contemporary, Broadway, gospel, folk, and light jazz music, and we maintain a continuing commitment to preserving and singing in the barbershop harmony style. In 2004, The *Ambassadors of Harmony* won the International Chorus Championship, held in Louisville Kentucky. They are re-entering competition in 2007, having won the Central States District Chorus Championship in October 2006 for the 12th consecutive time (14 overall). Since 1994 the chorus has acquired four 4th place, and five 3rd place medals in International chorus competition, in addition to the 2004 First Place Gold Medal. The Ambassadors of Harmony are dedicated to providing the finest a cappella entertainment to those who see and hear them. They have performed to sellout audiences at their annual shows in June and December, and at many other performance events. AOH has performed all over the United States and around the world, including performances in Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

Come for the entire week: July 29-August 5, 2007
Come for the weekend session: August 2-5, 2007
(Admission to this show is included in the tuition price for all HU students.) ♥

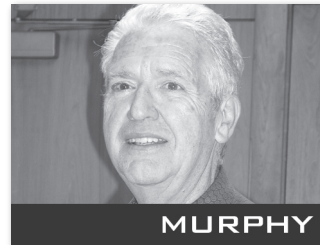
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

March 4	Ron McIntire
March 6	David Krause
March 16	Eric Weber
March 17	Don Young
March 23	Charles Ramirez
March 24	Jim Kinyon
March 29	Jerry Meier
March 29	Jake Wozniak

Reunion Night a Success

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



MURPHY

By the time this is published, it will be almost two months since we had our *Reunion Night* on Jan. 30. However, I believe you should have a report of the success of this night. We had over 30 guests on that evening. Fifteen were inactive members of our chapter, five were (as I called them) real guests, and the remainder was the *Heartbeats* ladies. All in all, I believe that everyone enjoyed the evening that concluded with Sheridans Frozen Custard. **Frank Leone** and **Jan Putzier** each won a copy of the new CD.

I want to thank all who helped with this event as you helped make everyone feel at home.

Now, what do we need to do next? Recruit new members! I said recruit new members! In case you didn't "hear" this, I said recruit new members!

I can recall when I first joined this chapter we regularly had 85 to 90 active members on the risers. I believe that we need to get back to that number. We now have a system of mentors for the new members with a total of eight men that have stepped forward to help new members. What they will be doing with a new member is help them walk through the first several months of membership. Where do they get the uniform? How do they become a part of the show chorus, or the competition chorus? There are so many details about what we do before a show; the mentor can help the new members with these details.

This all sounds good, but it will do no good if we don't have new members to help. I realize the primary way we get new members is by word of mouth, and each individual in the chorus attempts to bring at least two potential members throughout the year. Just do the math if only half of our members brought a guest over the course of a year, and half of those guests joined, we would have the potential of 20 to 30 new members. Wouldn't that be exciting?

So, I am asking all of you for your help. Bring guests. ♥

Sellout Crowd Enjoys HOA

by Dick Korek, Marketing & PR Vice-President

The Lee's Summit Community Concert Association presented HOA with a wonderful opportunity to entertain at the John Knox Pavilion on Feb. 17. HOA was part of a sold-out six-concert series. Our host, **Florence Hoogesteger**, president of the Lee's Summit Concert Association, was thoroughly pleased. Ms Hoogesteger and **Carl Chinnery**, who financed the show, were all smiles following the show and happy to see those "young boys sing as a quartet, and where did that lovely lady with the beautiful voice come from that sang *Lida Rose*?"

This made our third or fourth appearance at the Pavilion and it seems to be becoming a second home. ♥



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: MARCH 1997:

Campaign Coordinator **Monty Duerksen** was barely able to control his excitement as he reported the success of the 1997 “Singing Valentines” venture. This year, eight quartets were involved on Tuesday, Feb. 13, while nine four-somes took over on Wednesday, the 14th. The final result was the total sale of 341 SV’s for gross receipts amounting to \$13,000, part of which had been earmarked for the *HOA* chorus Education Fund and the Children’s Mercy Hospital Audiology Department.

And Monty went to great pains to give full credit to all of the *HOA* members—and in many cases, their family members—who worked so hard to make it a great success. He even went so far as to nominate **Mike Mathieu** for the “Singing Valentines Hall of Fame,” if there ever is one. He lauded the efforts of **Dick Sutton, Rick Mathieu, John Landry** and **Jim White**. And it was **Shirley** and **Jill Duerksen, Donna Lefholz, Betty White** and **Landry** again who handled the complications of the operation of the headquarters, a suite donated by the Doubletree Inn. And Marketing VP **Jon Gathright** saw to it that the campaign had plenty of exposure on Channels 4, 5 and 41.

Not having an accurate count, there could have been as many as 50 *HOA* members and alternates in the participating quartets

Now you know what it takes to conduct a successful “Singing Valentines” campaign.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1987

I was a member of the chapter then and had a pretty good record for attendance at chapter meetings and performances, but I don’t remember this one. The chapter was preparing for a trip to Omaha to help out the Central Statesmen (Chapter President **Marv Faulwell** called them an “ailing chapter”) with their annual show.

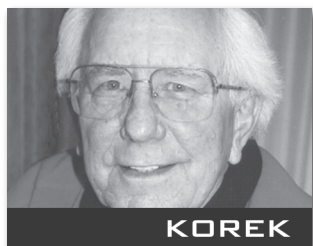
It was planned that *HOA* would appear on the program along with the *K.C. Connection*, and the Missouri Valley Music Company. In the contract, Omaha would pay a fee of \$1,000 and would provide bus transportation—for those who didn’t want to drive their own vehicles, I suppose—and an evening meal.

Omaha would also pay for the motel rooms for those who had come on the bus, which would not be returning to Kansas City until the next morning. However, in a separate article in the March *Harmonotes*, President Faulwell announces that Omaha had found it couldn’t afford to pay for the rooms, which meant the bus would have to return to Kansas City after the show.

FORTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1967

The March 1967 issue of *Harmonotes* is missing from my collection. But **Ray Koenig’s** historical article in the April edition includes the announcement that on Dec. 2, 1961, the *HOA* chorus would perform on the charter show of the new Southtown Chapter. Other groups on the program were the NOJOCO Chorus from Overland Park and the “Pony Expressmen” from St. Joseph. The “Parade of Quartets” was made up of the “Staffmates,” “BMA Beaconaires,” “Deck-o-Chords,” “Harmony Hicksters,” “Kippers” and “Merry Mugs.”

Quite a parade, don’t you think? Wonder if the audience got tired of barbershop quartets that evening. ♥



KOREK

Our Sponsors are a Blessing by Dick Korek, Marketing & PR VP

The program for the *HOA* March 17 annual show is being proofread and should be on schedule to be printed and ready for the show. It’s exciting to call on the past sponsors and in-kind donors and be greeted with a smile and willingness to help *HOA*. It’s a continuing challenge to present the *HOA* story to new companies, partly because most companies are bombarded with financial requests. The following is a list of our sponsors and they will be shown by logo in the show program. To each and everyone of them we say “Thank You” for your much-needed and welcome support.

SPONSORS: Frank Ancona Honda, Sheridan’s Frozen Custard, The Green Company, Overland Park Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, Kenmark Backdrops, Sam’s Club, Fedex Kinko’s, Pulte Homes, Metcalf Bank, First Watch Restaurants, Helzberg Diamonds, XS Lighting & Sound, David Hokanson, Bank Of Blue Valley. ♥



Above: 2007 Harmony Explosion winners are shown. HUBCAPS, Senior Boys Champs, are on the front row. They are from Oak Grove High School and Center Place Restoration School, Independence, Mo. Senior Girl Champs RCI SHAMONES from Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Ks. are on the second row. The third row has Junior Boys Champions RAISING THE BAR. The boys are from Cure' D Ars Parochial School, Oregon Trail Junior High, Olathe; Prairie Trail Junior High, Olathe; and Pioneer Trail Junior High, Olathe. On the top row is JEMS, the Junior Girls Champs from Pioneer Trail Junior High in Olathe. — Photo courtesy of Jim Clark

The Songs We Sing

Compiled by Wade Dexter, Source: Wikipedia

Jerome Kern was born on Jan. 27, 1885, in New York City. His mother was very talented musically and promoted music in the household. His father, a prosperous businessman, was affluent enough to permit Jerome to attend high school, where he was active in music and played the organ and helped to write and direct school musical shows. After he graduated from high school, he was also able to attend the New York College of Music. He studied abroad and received a master's degree at Heidelberg University in Germany.

Kern's primary contribution to popular music was through the musical show. However, it wasn't until he came out with "The Girl From Utah," which featured Julia Sanderson singing "They Didn't Believe Me" that he won real recognition.

But Kern's greatest success came in 1927 with "Showboat." **Oscar Hammerstein II** collaborated with Kern on the lyrics. Some of the most endearing songs from this show were "O! Man River," "Make Believe," and "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man."

Jerome Kern died on Nov. 11, 1945, after collapsing on a street corner in New York and failing to regain consciousness. ♥

We recognize the donors and sponsors that are leading HOA:

Doubletree Hotel of Overland Park
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 First Watch Restaurant
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 Sheraton of Overland Park
 Sheraton on the Plaza
 Sam's Clubs
 Sheridan's Frozen Custard
 Tobler's Flowers

The Theme for 2007 is **FRIENDS OF HOA**

Everyone will be invited to participate in helping support the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus in the ongoing mission to pursue excellence in a cappella singing.

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just let me know.

As of Wednesday, Feb. 28th, and 15 drawings:

The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$239. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$678. Last year, the total raised to this point was \$1636.

In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$841.

Our latest winner was Jim Bagby, on Feb. 13th (\$185).

The latest *Serenade* shows that our contribution to Harmony Foundation last year (\$4,500) was nearly three times larger than *Ambassadors of Harmony*, who were second in the district.

It now looks very unlikely we will match that figure this year, but we can still achieve a total comparable with previous years (\$2,407 in 2005). ♥





Singing Valentines Experience

by Jim Porter



The *KC Chords* were the delight of eight lovely ladies and one delighted fellow this Valentines day as **Marty Oldenhoeft** and **Rod Flater** were asked to come down to the vast suburban sprawl of Johnson County to sing with **Kevin Trisch** and

me. Somehow they survived the experience, we didn't ever get lost, we made all of our appointments with time to spare and were done by 2 p.m.

It didn't come as easily as you might think, however. As of the previous weekend, I had a sore throat and felt a cold coming on, and knew Sunday that I could not sing those high notes if my life depended on it! I appealed to my fellow singers, especially Rod (who likes to sing tenor in tags we do) to switch parts (I quickly burned a CD with the bari part on it and set about learning it Monday), but Rod confessed he didn't know the tenor part and if I couldn't do it, well ... that would just be too bad. It turned out for the best. This person has a great respect for baritones because he knows now how tough it is to sing that part! But God is great, He answered my prayer, my problem passed and Tuesday evening I was able to sing with the chorus, so we were all set for a big day Wednesday.

Highlights of the day? Many, of course. Everywhere you go there is an opportunity not only to sing for the one chosen, but for everyone within earshot. Three times we were in a school singing for a teacher AND all of her students. In one case, we sang for a kindergarten teacher and it turned out the sender of the SV was one of her young students! The little fellow sat beside the teacher in front of the rest of his class—well, you can draw your own conclusions, needless to say the guy had guts! Four others were in an office environment (one was at the Sprint campus), including one for a fellow who was conducting a board meeting when we showed up, so we were a considerable interruption to that meeting! We started with eight jobs, a ninth was added for the receptionist in a doctor's office at Menorah Medical Center. In every case we had opportunity to tell all present about the *Heart of America Chorus* and pass out flyers for our spring show. With it being in Yardley Hall this year, the interest was high!

Many kudos to **Marlin Weidler** and all who handled the Singing Valentines this year, as our set of assignments was very manageable and they were prepared with maps to each location to help in our planning. The real roses were a special delight, especially to those who have received SV's in the past and were used to our silk roses. For those of you who haven't done this and have thought about it—plan to take it on next year. There is no other opportunity during the year quite like this one to sing for an audience and know at once that you've really made someone's day pretty special.♥

Info Concerning the IRS and Your Quartet

taken from *On The QT* Newsletter

Here's what you need to know if you don't want to use your own Social Security number when being paid for chapters shows and performances.

You need obtain a SS-4 Application for Employer Identification Number Form. You can this form on line at the IRS.gov website (Used by Employers, corporations, churches, etc.) revised 1/06 at the Most Requested Forms and Publications—click on number 3. Your quartet will be called a partnership. Fill out the form and take it down to your local bank.

Another option is do the following:

You can open a Bank Business Account for your quartet. The Bank will give you a number and register the quartet name in your state. The bank might tell you that you will also need a certificate from the county in which you reside. You can pick this up from your local Court House. This certificate will cost approximately \$20. When you receive the certificate, it should have an official seal on it.

This should take care of any issues you might have concerning filing your quartet expenses for the IRS at the end of the year. If you have any further questions, please call **Jim DeBusman** at 800-876-7464, ext 8566 or email him at jdebusman@barbershop.org. ♥

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Summary of Mark Hale's Key Coaching Points

Compiled by Al Fehlauer, Baritone Section Leader



"Runnin' Wild" is a great rhythm song and has a much higher scoring potential than "Look Me Up When You're In Dixie."

Sing from the head down (with head tone and dampened volume), not "bottom up." Stay in our head voice even on the lower notes.

Dampen our loud, "gang-singing" tendency. Keep our dynamic levels low and our intensity high! It's all about a blended choral sound in "one voice," NOT volume! Stay out of the "honk mode." There is nothing wrong with the "smaller voice," and softer dynamics are more exciting.

Modify all vowels to the shape of a rounded "O" and tuck all the hard sounds inside the mouth.

The tighter "ee" sound makes the most dramatic change in corporate sound in a chorus. Sing all "it," "ing" and "ih" sounds with some "ee" in it. That's one of two sounds that trip up most choruses. [Example: "one you run to sEE, EEN the eve-NEENG..."] Mark said that the second vowel sound is the pursed "ur" sound, as in "church."

Change something! Sing on the pitch, and sing "pure" or you can't be artistic. Everyone must be dedicated to matching up the sound.

Keep the (pitch) beach ball in the air. Don't be a sack of rocks dragging on the ground.

Sing in the accent of "barbershop speak", or "sing-lish," as the Ambassadors of Harmony say. Speak phrases like British actors.

Gotta' be relentless in getting words lined up and 100% matching within the same system. Just one voice that isn't will jump out.

HOA needs to develop a culture of discipline. "Sidebar" talking wastes valuable rehearsal time. All must be ready to perform the instant the pitch is blown or the director raises his hands to begin. Total focus!

THINK and BELIEVE that we can do better. Raise goals and expectations, such as achieve at least one score of 87 in Denver. We have ALL the ability and tools in place.

Mark's Closing and General Comments:

Section leaders and other leaders need to be like drill sergeants. They may not be your friends, but it's key to getting everyone on the same page/same system. Enforce things like lower dynamic levels, targets, head voice.

All present responded in the affirmative to Jim's question "Did you all hear the difference in our corporate sound change this afternoon?"

There is nothing wrong with singing in a "smaller voice." Too many quartets and choruses out there think you have to sing loud to be a champion. Not true, since the champion ensembles DO NOT SING LOUD. Instead, they understand how to create a big sound via a matched ring, while singing in a dynamic 1-6 range. Choruses should use the same matched ring concept to lock in like a championship quartet. Think of a flowing river of sound.

Mark commented that Westminster sings EVERYTHING in head voice – very pure, crystal clear sound.

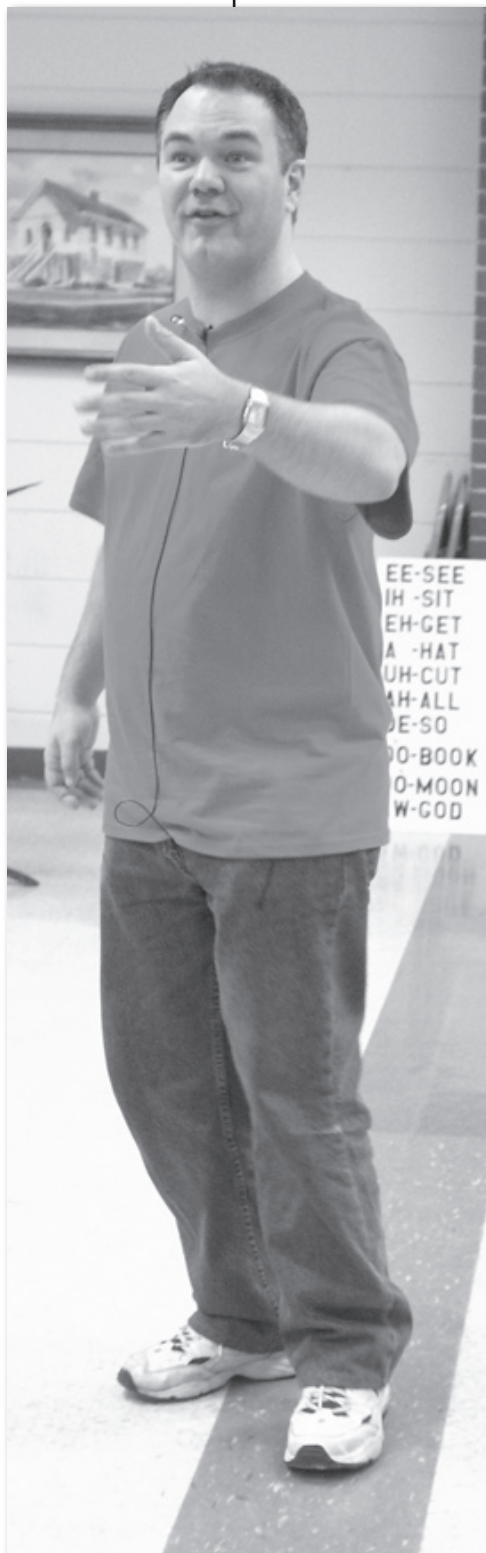
Jim as our director needs to be less of a technician and more of a musician. He shouldn't have to work so hard.

The music team must be relentless; might tick some of us off, but members will appreciate for the payoff.

Think of the music/breathing muscles being in our stomach, leaving all the area above free of stress to produce sound freely.

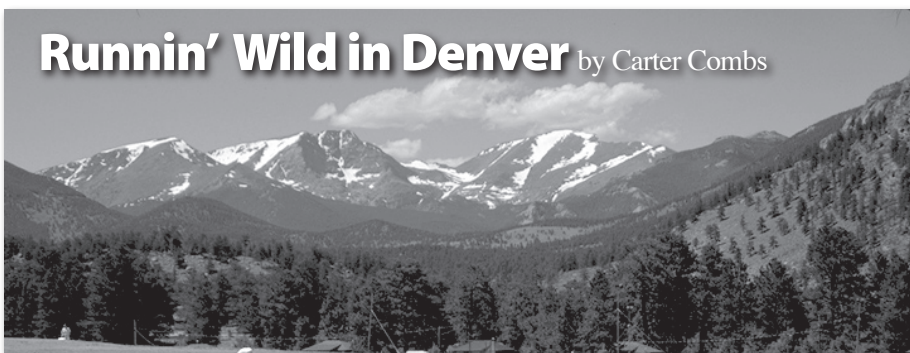
We have the ability to both score higher and perform at a higher level. Mark mentioned the Masters of Harmony "jukebox technique" of randomly picking out spots in five or six rep songs and working those before a performance. Our matching on all songs has to become second nature.

Work hard and keep rehearsing with these techniques. Eliminate the talking from the risers when the director is ready. We have everything we need right here to go out and score our highest scores ever, but we must commit to that approach, individually and collectively. ♥





Runnin' Wild in Denver by Carter Combs



By the time you read this, we will have already wrapped up our Annual show,

and will have started an intense period of preparation for International competition in Denver. This year, in addition to our vocal and visual prep, we need to consider adding another area of focus.

I've never been to the Mile-High City, but have often heard of athletes training there because of the benefits of high altitude aerobic conditioning. Conversely, because there is less oxygen at higher altitudes, many visitors have difficulty adjusting, and experience discomfort ranging from mild to severe.

In order to have an enjoyable and memorable experience in the mountains, there are some things you should know about high altitude. Lowland visitors who are not in good physical condition or have pre-existing cardiac conditions should use good judgment and try not to engage in strenuous activity too quickly.

Now, I don't know about you, but I consider 6-8 minutes on the International stage pretty strenuous, especially when we finish with "Runnin' Wild!" So the additional area of focus we should include is our physical condition in general, and aerobic conditioning in particular. Getting in shape could pay big dividends for us in Denver.

To assist these efforts, we have started this week (late February) to organize some exercise "pods"—regional groups that can get together on a regular schedule to work out. Please consult your doctor to determine what exercise regimen will be right for you. (Medical disclaimer: I am NOT a doctor, I just like to tell people to stick out their tongues and say "ahhh".)

Also, please strongly consider traveling to the Denver area earlier than necessary for the convention. I know this doesn't fit the financial (and vacation days) budget of many of our members, but could make things more comfortable for you if you are able.

Some other High Altitude tips:



- Plan a day of rest before attempting strenuous exercise like downhill or cross-country skiing (or singing for more than 2 minutes.)
- It may take several days to become fully acclimated to altitudes of 5,000 feet or higher.
- Acute mountain sickness is an illness characterized by headache, loss of appetite, diarrhea and fatigue. It usually takes about 24 hours to run its course.
- To decrease the risk of altitude illness, eat high carbohydrate foods, get plenty of rest, drink lots of water, limit salt intake, limit alcohol intake (aaarrggghhh!).
- People with cardiac conditions may experience more episodes of chest discomfort, shortness of breath and fatigue. If symptoms become severe, medical attention should be sought.
- If minor discomfort is experienced, visitors should pace themselves, takes rests, and stop activity when tired.

Happy rehearsing! ♥

Your BHS Membership helps you save with Hertz®

Effective March 1, the Society will be partnering with Hertz® to provide special benefits to our members. Members will receive special discounts off of car rentals around the world all year long.

To rent:

Call 800-654-2210.

Use CDP #1741435.

Rent using the Hertz® website <http://link.hertz.com/link.html?id=9390>

The Members Only line is open 24 hours a day, with a Hertz® representative ready to assist with our members' requests.

The benefits to this agreement provide greater value to Society members.

Members can call the Hertz® dedicated 800 number with the Society's assigned CDP and the reservation agent will automatically process the discounted rate.

Staff members, Society leaders and members renting cars are encouraged to participate in this program and present the BHS CDP number shown above.

We will soon be receiving 30,000 Hertz® Discount Savings Cards and coupons with the Barbershop Harmony Society name and logo. As new and renewing members are mailed their membership cards, the intent is to include these Hertz® discount cards in the renewal envelope. Rent with Hertz® and save! ♥





What was I **DOING** at our Midwinter Convention? "Sittin' On Top Of the World!"

by Mike Mathieu

Below are a couple of pictures of me in Albuquerque at the recent Midwinter Convention. My first hot air balloon ride! I went on the tour with six strangers, plus **Nancy Beckman**, **Dean' Beckman's** wife from up in Iowa. Dean is the District Harmony Foundation officer. ♥



FROM THE MAIL BAG



Thank you very much for the privilege of standing among you to sing on Tuesday Feb 6. I've sung with several out-of-town groups, and I found it interesting - you're clearly a cut or two above the average chorus in your performance quality, so your practice sessions are necessarily run pretty efficiently and with some intensity, yet I felt as comfortable singing with you guys as anywhere I've been. At every point there was a helping hand or comment to make sure I knew what was going on, felt included, and got some pleasure out of the experience. And all of that with a show coming up, Denver on your minds, etc. - the pressure to make use of your time didn't get in the way of making me feel at home, and I thank you very much for that. I'd heard about Mr. Bagby, but now I know a little more about the heart in Heart of America.

Sincerely,

Cliff Turnbull
Croix Chordsmen
St. Croix Valley, Minnesota

Dear Jim,
Words can't express how much I appreciated you and the chorus that came to the funeral. Max would have been so proud.

Everyone was touched by the songs; one person said that was the closest to heavenly of any singing they had heard.

The number of fellows that gave of their time was amazing to many [Ed. note: 32 HOA members sang for Max Boise's services last month in Holt, Mo.]

Just want you to know how proud and pleased I was to hear the chorus again. The article in the Harmonotes was extra nice also.

Thanks to each,
Charlla [Boise]

Jim,

The show at Knox last night was a gem in my eyes and ears. The sound and dynamics were great and I was proud of all your efforts. The key people at the show were overwhelmed and Mr. Chinnery, who financed the night, was equally delighted. Including "Raising the Bar" was especially well received. Congrats to all on the music team and your daughter. The Knox people were taken in by her "wonderful voice."

Dick Korek



Barbershopper of the Month for January 2007



Mark Fortino

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Mark Fortino** with the January, 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for the work and effort you put in to make the 2nd Heart Of America chorus CD ready for production and the best we've ever done. ♥

Xtra Mile Award Winners!



Jerry Garrard and Al Higgins

Above: HOA President **Tony Strub** presents **Jerry Garrard (left)** and **Al Higgins** with the January 2007 Xtra Mile award, which reads:

In recognition for your work planning and organizing the 2007 Kansas City Chapter Installation and Awards Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel, Jan. 13, 2007 ♥

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.

From the 69 guys in the chorus to the HOA Music Team we say "What a great day of coaching with **Mark Hale**."

A big Tip O' The Hat to the 60 guys who sang at John Knox Village, Feb 17, 2007; to **Chuck Ames** and the dedicated Spartans who helped put up and take down the risers; to directors **Jim Bagby**, **Carter Combs** and **Mike Neff**; to *Command Performance*, *Escape*, *Raising the Bar* and *Tone-Henge*; and to **Vince Perry** who saw to it that we had sandwiches and bottled water.

A big Tip O' The Old Topper to **Marlin Weidler** and his Singing Valentine's crew: **Ron McIntire**, **Bob Murphy**, **Dick O'Dell**, **Mike Mathieu**, **Vince Perry** and the ladies who helped put the roses, cards and candy together for the quartets. And to the 11 quartets who traveled over the far reaches of the metro area to deliver 155 Valentines we say thanks to you. You made it happen.

A Flick Of The Fedora to **Doug Brott** and his crew who are watching over the *Happy Together* CD sales and distribution.



February Reunion Night

Hats Off to MVP **Bob Murphy** for his work on a fine Member Reunion Night, January 30, 2007. Members of the chapter and chorus who've been around for awhile got to renew old friendships with some of those we haven't seen for years and the newer guys were able meet some of the guys who made the chapter what it is today. A great, great job, Bob.

A Tip Of The Bowler to Chairman **Tony Strub** and his crew who worked the 2007 Harmony Explosion contest, and to the Junior Boys' winners *Raising the Bar*. ♥



Red, White and Blue Tag-In Quartet Event at Denver Convention

taken from *LiveWire!*

A fun new event at this summer's convention lets you sing great tags with great quartets.

The Society's motto is practiced at its best at the annual convention. We've created several venues for you to join in the singing. Here are just a few samples of where your voice is needed: **NEW! The Red, White and Blue "Tag-In Quartet"**

At the 2007 Denver Convention there will be three color-designated Red, White & Blue Tag-In Quartets roaming various designated convention areas according to announced schedules and locations. Each Tag-In Quartet will present three different, specified songs that it will sing with conventioner guests. Each quartet will carry a notebook with its three songs arrangements that the "Tag-In" guest can read from if necessary to refresh a bit before singing to qualify. Each quartet will also carry "song cards" specific for only its own three songs.

Red

I'm Sittin' On Top Of The World
Seventy-Six Trombones
Lazy River

White

Coney Island Baby
Lida Rose
This Little Light of Mine, Do Lord Medley

Blue

Hello Mary Lou
Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah
Sincere



When a conventioner guest sings a song reasonably proficiently from memory ("satisfactory," not "perfect") as adjudged by the Tag-In Quartet's displaced member, the quartet will "sign-off" on the song card for that specific song. Each conventioner guest will keep his/her own "song card" so it's handy if he/she returns to qualify on another song with that same color Tag-In Quartet.

When all three quartet-specific songs for a quartet are "signed off," the quartet will keep the guests "song card" and deposit it into a drawing for the Three Grand Prizes:

- Video iPod
- Flat Panel HDTV
- Blue Ray DVD Player

A volunteer guest singer may qualify with any one, two or all three of the Tag-In Quartets, thereby increasing his/her chances to win one of the Three Grand Prizes. A singer can only win once in the Three Grand Prizes drawings. ♥

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

Chorus Director - Jim Bagby

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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!

Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson

17905 East 24th Terrace Ct. South • Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 373-8633 • toddanderson@comcast.net

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

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

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

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

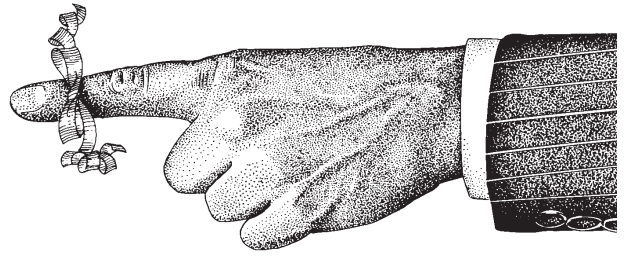
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry

Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- March 8** Extra Show rehearsal
- March 16** 6 p.m. - HOA Tech Rehearsal for Annual Show, Yardley Hall
- March 17** 2 & 7:30 p.m. - HOA 61st Annual Show, Yardley Hall
- March 30** 7 p.m. - Garden City Community Choir Easter Cantata,
South Kansas City Baptist Church
- March 31** 5 p.m. - HOA Show, Trenton, Mo.
- April 11** Barbershop Harmony Society Birthday - Began in April, 1938
- April 20-21** CSD Spring Prelims, Sioux Falls, SD

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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