

Heart of America Chorus Calendar



- May 2 -** HOA Weekly Meeting - **Darin Drown** Coaching!!
- May 9 -** HOA Weekly Meeting - Taping Deadline for Indy!
- May 13 -** HOA - Richmond MO Show - Farris Theatre
Show starts at 7:30 p.m.; Riser setup at 4:30 p.m.;
Warm-ups at 5:15 p.m.; Tech Rehearsal at 5:30 p.m.
- May 21 -** HOA CD Recording Session @ White Hall, UMKC - 1 to 8 p.m. with a dinner break
- June 4 -** HOA CD Recording Session - White Hall, UMKC - 1 to 8 p.m. with a dinner break
- June 6 -** HOA Weekly Meeting - **Bill Biffle** Coaching! Vocal production tune-up for Indy! - 7 p.m.
- June 15 -** HOA Extra Rehearsal for Indy Prep
- June 22 -** HOA Extra Rehearsal for Indy Prep
- July 2-9 -** SPEBSQSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - Indianapolis, IN

Photos courtesy of **Don Fuson**

CROWNED #1 CHAPTER BULLETIN IN THE CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT FOR 2005!

May 2006

Volume 06 - Issue 5

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



*Drawn by Harmony,...
Bound by Friendship,...
Striving for Excellence!*

The Quest Begins by Tony Strub, Chapter President

"There are those who look at things the way that they are and ask why. I dream of things that never were and ask why not." – **Robert F. Kennedy**

We have begun the preparation for our competition in Indianapolis. The possibilities look bright. We have a two-song package that is well-liked by the membership, that is challenging and if done well has great potential for reward in the contest. We could perhaps put one hundred singers on the risers. Something that, in *HOA* competition, has never happened before. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could achieve that goal. Some of our *HOA* brothers in Leavenworth and in Olathe meet weekly to work on choreography. Our directors, section leaders and presentation team stand ready to help one and all to be the best that they can be. As a member of *HOA* for only four years, I can say without reservation that this is the highest degree of enthusiasm that I have seen for a competition.

Competition is the strongest call to our membership to pursue the mission of our chapter. It challenges us to

give to our goal all that we have all of the time. The head coach at George Mason University recently asked his basketball players to go the extra mile in their pursuit of the Final Four. When they won their game to be in the final four, the coach's comment to the press was "When you go the extra mile, there isn't much traffic up here." Competition is an opportunity to hone our skills so that we can better entertain our audiences. Being a part of a team in a competition is also an opportunity to be with your friends and have some fun. If you have not signed up for Indy, we would love for you to come with us. We need you. You are important to us.

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us on our road to Indy. I am confident in the character and commitment of our membership. When we work together, we can do some wonderful things. "When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life and in the lives of others." – **Helen Keller** WHY NOT? ♥



Ron McIntire

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Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
816 West 121 Street
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12TH STREET RAG



...on to International!

John Fortino, Mark Fortino, Barry Moore, Micah Jeppesen

QUADIO



...5th Place at Iowa City!

Rob Mathieu, Mike Troyer, Matt Moore, Grant Hunget

Quartet photos courtesy of **Don Fuson**

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. 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

2006 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

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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 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 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



HOA Reps Put Springs In 2006 CSD Convention At Iowa City

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver



It's awfully difficult to be modest and low-key about the Kansas City Chapter when one surveys HOA's participation in the spring Central States District convention, a few weeks ago at Iowa City, IA

Our 12th Street Rag (well, we claim half of 'em in John and Mark Fortino) hit the 2,000-point level in qualifying for another trip to international competition, with an average of 83.3. They were

among 15 HOA quartet members in 17 competing foursomes. They will join young Vocal Spectrum of St. Charles—who averaged a gaudy 86.8—and flashy 3 Men & Melody from Liberty and St. Charles (84.2) in Indianapolis. More about quartets in a moment.

You'll read on page 4 about this magnificent publication being named CSD Bulletin of the Year under Editor Todd Anderson. Whatta great achievement! He follows in the footsteps of our Wade Dexter, who formerly captured district and Society top honors with Harmonotes.

Against the Grain, who twice came from neighboring University of Kansas to sing for us and get some HOA coaching, captured the CSD collegiate championship. And Ringtones, a new foursome led by HOA aces Brian Marston and Jake Pirner, made a fine showing in an impressive collegiate competition. In fact, look for Indianapolis wildcard invitations to other CSD collegiate foursomes.

Our dual Leavenworth members also represented themselves well in the Plateau A chorus competition, which drew 11 entries from across the district. There was not a chorus with a score below a mid-C—and as a judge who has worked every district, I can tell you that's far above the norm for a small chorus contest. Congrats to director Keith Owen and his Cody Choraliers.

Speaking of good scores, none of the 17 quartets in the regular contest scored lower than mid-C, and 14 were B or above. Again, you almost have to be a judge to appreciate that. Our brand-new Quadrio (Rob Mathieu, Grant Hunget and Matt Moore, plus Michael Troyer from St. Joseph) were the surprise of the weekend, soaring into fifth place with an average of almost 72 points—that's a high B. And they positioned themselves as top contenders for the district championship this fall in Wichita (Quadrio, if you're reading this, ignore that last sentence).

Also surprising was Command Performance—in that they didn't make the 10 as all the audience assumed. They sang like birds, entertained like champs and finished six points out of the cut (read between the lines: we wuz robbed) and did a great job as Saturday night mic testers. Congrats to our Carter Combs, Jon Gathright, Rich Huyck and Monty Duerksen.

All In! (Kip Matthew, Duane Lawson, Mark Meyer and Don Young) averaged 64 and finished 13th, but only a handful of points out of the top 10. Yep, it was a barnburner contest. And Escape! from our chapter and Leavenworth (with HOA members Keith and Mike Owen) was thoroughly entertaining in their authentic orange prison suits as they entered by crawling backward from under the backdrop. They did note later the entrance took more wind than they had expected. They wound up 16th, but still averaged 55.

Other HOA members in evidence in Iowa City included CSD Executive Veep Don Fuson, who announced the Harmonotes award and Barbershopper of the Year Scott Spilker of Beatrice, Neb., who will be remembered as director of the visiting chorus on our afterglow—a worthy recipient! Kent McClean served as contest administrator, while Bruce Wenner (Music) and Mike Louque (Presentation) served on the practice judging panel, continuing to work toward certification. Al Higgins and Chuck Ames did their usual hospitality chores for District President Byron Myers, Sr.; my wife, Joann, ran the judges' hospitality suite with her usual efficiency; Higgins served as our representative to the House of Delegates meeting, where past CSD President Ron Abel also was on hand, and I emceed the chorus and collegiate contests.

We had a good group of HOA fans on hand, so I won't try to list all those—lest this sound like a gossip column or (worse) that I overlook someone. Some of them likely will be contributing their own observations of the convention, which was very well-run by John Marshall and his team! ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to your very own charitable organization...HOA!

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used. Be included in the list below, and proudly support HOA.

DONORS

Members And Friends Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus into 2006

Gold Heart
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Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization. Checks should be made out to: HOA Give to any HOA Board member or mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman 816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011 Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1,

Heart of America Chorus

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Thank You For Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus 2005-2006!



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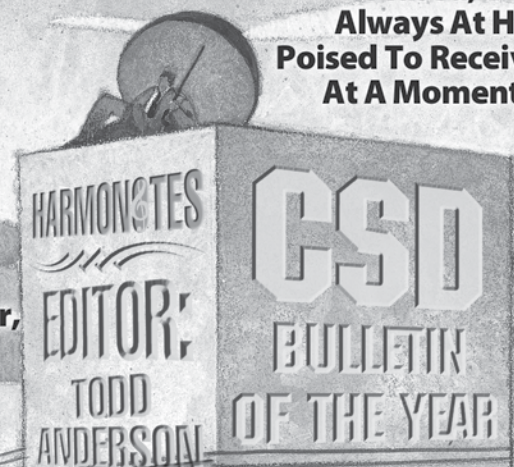
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HARMONOTES HARD WORK PAID OFF!

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor and so-so

**A Tremendous Performing Chorus,
A Plethora of Passionate Writers,
Sage Direction From A Past Winning Editor,
Outstanding Photographers,
Educated Proofers and
Dedicated Delivery Organizer**

**Today's *Harmonotes* Editor:
Focused, Vigilant,...
Always At His Post...
Poised To Receive Accolades
At A Moment's Notice!**



Ron McIntire

Returning home after running errands, I found my wife **Charlene** standing next to our answering machine with a grin on her face. She pushed the *play* button and

said "Listen!"

I then heard **Vince Perry** offering his congratulations over my being named ***Bulletin Editor of the Year!***

First place for *Harmonotes*? *Holy Oak, Massachusetts!* What a fantastic tribute to the many folks who work to chronicle HOA's history each month.

You have no idea how proud I feel to have played ANY role in putting *HOA* on this pedestal. It's no different than when I was able to sing on the risers and give my all while performing. It just feels downright good!

In baseball, when a rare "no-hitter," occurs, sports historians only log the name of the pitcher who threw it. However, they *don't* include the name of the catcher! I wonder why that is? After all, the catcher probably played an even more critical role in managing the pitches that were thrown and knowing his pitchers limitations!

Doesn't seem fair, does it?

I was given a beautiful plaque by the Central States District, singling ME out as being the editor of the #1 bulletin in our district. Figuratively speaking, I'm the winning pitcher. I'm grateful for the award! But this plaque doesn't show the other players names who were instrumental in putting me—putting *Harmonotes*—in the position to win first place (these other players know my limitations)!

Long story short: *HOA* is chock full of wonderfully gifted folks who share in this bulletin honor! Yes, *Harmonotes* is back on top, and it's there for the following reasons.

Great articles from chapter officers and members—each making the choice to communicate ideas and views via our chapter bulletin. We've benefitted from the experiences, encouragement and knowledge of folks like **Jim Bagby, Carter Combs, Wade Dexter, Monty Duerksen, Dick Korek, Ron McIntire, Dale Neuman, Marty Oldehoeft, Vince Perry, Keith Schweer, Tony Strub, Phil Veltkamp and Bruce Wenner.** We've guffawed at comedic reflections by **Dan Henry.** **Wade Dexter** takes us on a ride each month in his time machine, looking back proudly at our heritage. We've also enjoyed those

who have shared with us from their own vantage point. **Jim Porter** has reviewed other chapter performances that we weren't able to make. *And how many chapter bulletins can boast of having international reporters?* **Niel Johnson** became a correspondent for *Harmonotes*, during his tour of duty in Iraq, giving us a soldier's glimpse of what it's like serving our country far from everything that one holds dearest. He submitted concrete proof that a barbershop chorus can grow and flourish— even in a desert!

When chapter officers and members consistently chime in, it makes all the difference. Just ask the bulletin judges.

Outstanding photos help sell each article as well as tell the stories! *HOA* has a crackerjack group of photographers who enjoy what they do. And aren't you glad they do!? **Matt Bostick, Don Fuson, Ron McIntire...** each make my job so much easier by providing stellar photos. They give us "eye candy" that makes reading a joy. They take great pride in their work and donate large amounts of time capturing great performances. Their candid shots capture your emotional investment on the risers, which light up our pages!

(Continued on page 7 ♦♦)

(Continued from page 6)

Strong Counsel and Sage Advice!

For ten years, **Jim Bagby** has graciously proofed my work. It became pretty clear to him, early on, that I wasn't an English scholar. Still, he hangs in there with me, providing the industrial-strength help I often need. His AP wordsmith experience—cutting through clutter, slicing and dicing, editing—makes it so much easier for me to focus on layout and design. My wonderful wife **Charlene** also proofs, from time to time, when I can't find Jim. She is a wonderful asset and I can't thank her enough for her assistance!

And then there's [Master Jedi] **Wade Dexter**, who served many years as *Harmonotes* Editor, and knows what it feels like to win at both the District and International level, has proven himself to be a strong asset. Over time, Wade has gently pointed out areas that needed improvement, and has even taken a role in procuring or even writing articles each month. All this, while caring for his dear wife at home. Wade is a model of dedication and care, no matter what the topic. I've learned much under his guidance!

Ron McIntire also shows boundless energy when it comes to developing new story lines! His creation of "Focal Point," and garnering the info we need for "New Members Spotlight," are critical ingredients that make each issue enjoyable. Ron's dedication is a gift I am truly thankful for.

Getting the final piece delivered each and every month! *HOA* past president **Dick Irwin** tackles this task each month. Picking up the bulletins, then labeling and preparing them for the post office to mail. What seems to me a dreary load is carried with ease by Dick. Neither rain nor shine keeps this appointed carrier from his rounds. Thanks, Dick, for delivering our monthly chronicle!

Did I miss anyone? Did I make any errors? *Probably so.* After all, ...I'm an editor! If your name wasn't listed, but you have contributed—from articles and photos, to proofing—I'm telling you, it's your input that made all the difference. If you are one who instinctively sends in articles or photos each month, you are the fuel that runs the bulletin! Readers depend on you.

I'd like to close by reminding all our members to consider submitting material. Don't leave it to the next guy. New folks, don't trick yourself in to believing that only the older members have the copyright on what it's like to sing barbershop. Every single member has something to offer!

Thanks, *HOA*, for allowing me the privilege of serving as your editor. I truly enjoy the responsibility and will continue to do all I can to keep our *Harmonotes*...right where it is in the rankings! ♥

Quadrio: 5th At Prelims!

by Grant Hunget



Don Fuson

From L to R: Quadrio members Rob Mathieu, Michael Troyer, Matt Moore & Grant Hunget en route to a fifth-place finish!

First of all, "CONGRATS!" to the CSD Qualifiers for INDY: Vocal Spectrum, 3 Men & A Melody, 12th Street Rag, and we suspect *The Noise Boys* will probably get the nod, having only missed by 4 points.

Even though International Prelims are all about score (not placement), WE'RE THRILLED about a 71.6 average, and coming away with a 5th-place finish in our very first Contest!! We now know where we stand, that we have good potential, and what we need to do in preparation for Fall Contest in Wichita.

There were 5 good Quartets breathing down our necks in Iowa City, so we can't and won't let up!

We feel particularly good about where we landed after only about 4 months of work, AND **Michael** was battling bronchitis all weekend. He barely spoke Friday and Saturday, and the only singing he did was on stage (until the Afterglow, of course). Our prep and warm-ups were all trio work, with Michael silently going through the motions

Friday night just didn't "hit" for us, but Saturday we turned it around, posting as high as 78's on "What'll I Do." We had a blast out there, so thanks for the support of all you *HOA* and St. Joe Families, those on hand, and those who didn't make the trip.

Special Thanks to **Jim Bagby** and **John Fortino**, who coached us in the past few weeks. ♥



Heartbeats Meeting

Slated For May 9 by Eilene Campsey

The *Heartbeats* are having their next meeting on May 9, 7:00 p.m., at the church. We will be preparing for the International send-off and good luck items for the *HOA Chorus!* ♥

Coaching Available For Mixed, Female And Society Quartets At Harmony U

Taken from the *QT Newsletter* from the Barbershop Harmony Society

For the first time, female and mixed quartets will be added to the Society quartets eligible to receive coaching in the Quartet College at the Society's Harmony University this summer.

Harmony University will be held this year from July 30 to Aug. 6 on the newly renovated campus of Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO.

Male quartets, female quartets and mixed quartets will be coached in the same outstanding coaching "pod" program offered in the quartet track.

Each "pod" will consist of four Society coaches: one each, a Music, Performance, Singing and Presentation coach (the likes of **Bill Myers, Ed Waesche, Mel Knight, Ev Nau, Tim Brooks, Dwain Brobst, Gary Plaag, Hank Hammer, Gary Stamm, Jim Kahlke** and **Larry Clemons!**) The team of the same four coaches will work with their six assigned quartets throughout the week.

The quartet members will also have the opportunity to take classes specifically designed for quartets, or other classes that interest them.

Room and board for an entire week will be \$575 for Society members and \$700 for non-members. Commuter prices are \$450 for Society members and \$575 for non-members.

Costs will increase by \$100 per person after June 1.

For more information on the Quartet College track, contact **Jim DeBusman**, BHS music educator for quartet development and promotion, at jdebusman@barbershop.org or 800-876-7464 x8566.

For more information on Harmony University, contact **Linda Neuenfeld**, registrar, at lneuenfeld@barbershop.org 800-876-7464 x8591 or visit the website at www.barbershop.org/harmonyu ♥



From L to R: Command Performance members Carter Combs, Jon Gathright, Monty Duerksen and Rich Huyck. . . made sure those mics worked just right!

Command Performance: CSD Mic Testers

by Jon Gathright, for *Command Performance*

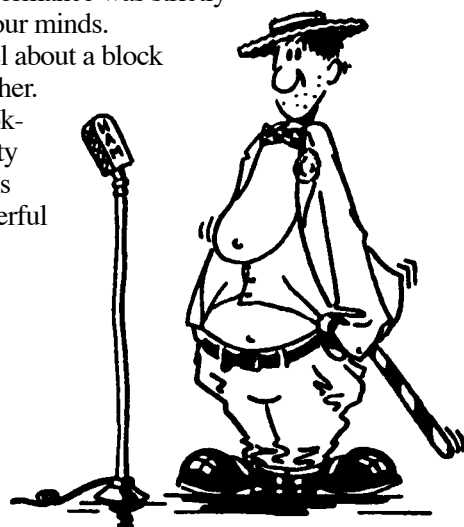
Well, we just got back from the prelims in Iowa City, Iowa. We had a wonderful time. This was our second contest and the second time we were *mic testers* so we kicked around the idea of changing our quartet name the *Eleventh Heaven* but decided to wait for the next contest.

We were overly excited and elated with our draw in the singing order, yes we got to sing right after *Vocal Spectrum*, what an honor, then came *12th Street Rag*. We considered *Hari Kari*, *Russian Roulette*, *Faking Illness*, or jumping out of the 7th floor window, but after our jubilation subsided we decided to give it a try. After all that, we were glad to warm up the mikes for Saturday Night Festivities, It was great fun.

One of our judges told us he felt that he needed to hold himself back with his scoring, which I guess is maybe understandable after just hearing *Vocal Spectrum*. Maybe we really confused him. We thought about telling the judges that any imperfections in our performance was strictly due to our coaches, but changed our minds.

The venue was really nice, hotel about a block away from the theater, great weather.

We had a great time and are looking forward to the next opportunity to compete in this great CSD. It is a privilege to be with these wonderful CSD quartets. ♥



Is Harmony University In Your Future?

by Rich Huyck



Are you one of those guys that likes to sing tags with pick-up group every chance you get? Then you're a perfect candidate to attend Harmony University. "Since

this is a singing society, I expected to hear and, maybe, participate in some impromptu songs with the fellows. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to sing with the likes of **Farris Collins** and **Joe Liles**. I was sitting at a table eating dinner with **Jim Richards** when he started describing a tag with weird harmonic sequences. **Burt Szabo** must have overheard since he came over and sat down at our table. He and **Jim** started to talk shop about the tag. After a few minutes, he and Jim rewrote the tag, taught it to us, and we introduced the tag to the world right there at our table. Wasn't too bad a tag from a couple of beginners." (an excerpt from "A Week at Harmony College" by **Charles Ramirez**)

Now is the time to get really serious about applying for The **Orval Wilson** Scholarship to Harmony University which is open to any first-time participant. Applications may be picked up at rehearsal or one is posted on the HOA website member's page. Applications are to be given to **Charles Ramirez** no later than May 2 with the winner notified by the *Heartbeat* committee May 9.

Why not give it a try? ♥

GUEST NIGHT - APRIL 4!



ABOVE: Jerry Garrard and Jim Bagby confer before welcoming all the guests with HOA on the risers.



At Right: QUADIO quartet (L-R) tenor (Rob Mathieu) lead (Mike Troyer) bass (Matt Moore) bari (Grant Hunget)



ABOVE: Guest lineups with Jim Bagby (guests perform a new song they learned), BELOW: Using recorders with guests (and some HOA support) to create a musical memory of the evening!



ABOVE Left: Jerry Sheridan, owner of Sheridan's Frozen Custard out front directing "Keep the Whole World Singing" for HOA, ABOVE Right: L-R Walt Patterson, Dick Korek (back) Bob Murphy and Harvey Shapiro—all look like it is a FUN evening! Guest Night photos courtesy of Don Fuson

Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



As usual, it’s a busy time for our chapter as we start to work on our next CD project. We have recording sessions scheduled for May 21 and June 4 at White Recital Hall on the campus of UMKC. The preparation work we do for recording should pay dividends in our readiness for Indianapolis as well.

The Music Team has started the process of selecting and acquiring new music for the next holiday season as well as for our general repertoire. If you have suggestions or favorites you’d like the chorus to sing, let someone on the Music Team know.

We have finalized our coaching schedule for the balance of 2006. It is as follows:

- Several Tuesday evenings – **Sheri Hart** – HOA staging designer and teacher
- 5/2/06 – **Darin Drown** (Director of *Sound of the Rockies Chorus*, baritone of *Storm Front* and former member of *HOA*)
- 6/6/06 – **Bill Biffle** (*HOA* Singing guru)
- 8/15/06 – **Jim Henry** (Director of *Ambassadors of Harmony* and Bass of *Gas House Gang*)
- Retreat – **Mark Hale** (Director of *Masters of Harmony*, Lead of *Michigan Jake*)
- **Joe Hunter** (Board of review member in Presentation category, Baritone of *Reveille*, Director of *Big Apple Chorus* and past lead of parody champion *Four Under Par*)

That’s quite a lineup, don’t you think? ♥

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, April 26, and 23 drawings: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$249 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$2,147. Last year, the total raised was \$1,250. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$1,314. ♥

The Ringtones Experience

by Brian Marston



From L to R: Ringtones collegiate members Brian “Brike” Marston, Mike Dunlap, Luke Hoeppepner and Jake Pirner enjoyed Iowa City!

On behalf of *The Ringtones*, I would like to thank the *Heart of America* for all of your support through contest time in Iowa City. Although we didn’t place anywhere near we had hoped in the Collegiate Quartet Contest, we had a blast!!! We were overjoyed to hear many of you at the contest said that we had come a LONG way since we had performed for the chorus just a week earlier.

The highlight of our weekend was singing in a VLQ (very large quartet) with the *Journeymen* from Mason City. What are the chances that two quartets sing the same exact songs at contest? Although we were outside singing tags, we were happy to hear that an experienced quartet like the *Journeymen* sang “Once Upon A Time” on Friday night. When they started singing their uptune, “Nice Work If You Can Get It,” on Saturday night, the four of us sprang forward in our seats and were so surprised. We met up with *Journeymen* at the Afterglow and sang both of our songs together for the Presidents Hospitality room and in the lobby. Talk about expanded sound!!!

The Ringtones had a great time in Iowa City and we aren’t quite finished yet! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to the following chapter members!

- May 1 **Charles Ames**
- May 2 **John Starcke**
- May 5 **Wade Dexter**
- May 6 **Anthony Fortino**
- May 7 **Carter Combs**
- May 9 **Dan Bowser**
- May 12 **Stew Grosser**
- May 13 **Kevin Beauford**
- May 20 **Dale Neuman**
- May 21 **Walt Patterson**
- May 22 **George Park, Jr.**
- May 24 **Joe Mathieu**

Tourism Fun in Indy

by Bryan Hughes, Director – Circle City Sound of the Greater Indianapolis Chapter

According to the famous poet **James Whitcomb Riley**, there once lived a vicious group of settlers within the land that would eventually become Indiana, his home. These settlers were so mean and nasty that they would often bite off the noses and ears of others during scuffles. It is said that this happened so often that people would walk in to a saloon after a fight and ask the question, “Who’s Ear?” Travelers began to call the rogue citizens of this prairie land the “Hoosiers” of the Midwest.

Others continued to tell and embellish the story of this famous Hoosier poet through the years. The current version claims that those travelers began to bypass this violence to avoid being disfigured. The Hoosiers soon noticed a significant drop of cash flow in their travel and tourism industry. A bold plan was devised and set into motion. There would be no more biting off of ears and noses—at least among those traveling to and through their land. A national marketing company was hired to repair the negative image that had been created. The company developed a two-word slogan and mission that all citizens would live by: “HOOSIER HOSPITALITY!” After many years of ad campaigns and biting cessation courses for the citizens of Indiana, the word Hoosier can now be something that stands for decency instead of senseless violence.

The first part is truly James Whitcomb Riley’s version of where the term “Hoosier” originated, the second part is not his—as if you couldn’t tell! If this were true, have things really changed in Indiana?

Since the last international barbershop singing convention in 1997, things have continued to improve in Indiana and its

capital city of Indianapolis. In November of 2005 the New York Times said, “In the 1990s, construction and development downtown seemed to wake the city up, and today, a thriving cultural scene mixes with Hoosier hospitality and charm...”

Why should you come to Indianapolis this July? Besides the opportunity to experience the best barbershop music in the world in the new Conseco Fieldhouse and in hotel hallways all over downtown, Indianapolis offers visitors some of the best attractions you’ll find anywhere.

The NCAA Hall of Champions is an addition to the city that came with the relocation of the NCAA National Administration Offices to Indianapolis in 2003. The exhibits at the Hall are designed around a single question: “What is a champion?” That question is answered through the history of past champions of the NCAA, but the sentiment of the answer is ever present in barbershop singing and in life in general. Quartet and chorus competitors alike will be inspired. It is located on the beautiful mid-city canal walk.

Also on the canal is the world class Indiana State Museum with IMAX Theater. During your visit, this museum will feature an exhibit of advances in nanotechnology. Purdue University is sponsoring the exhibit, which will highlight development of microscopic organisms and robots. This cutting edge technology is said to be the future of medical breakthroughs and construction techniques unlike anything the world has ever seen. This would be a great visit for any age.

Right next door to the state museum is the Eiteljorg Museum. The museum is known for its display of Native American art and artifacts. This is a definite destination for the American history buff and art lover alike.

Also near the canal is the Indianapolis Zoo and Botanical Gardens. This zoo has been in Indy since 1954, and it is among the best zoos in the world.

Since 1997, there have been many additions, the most notable being the Dolphin Pavilion. It has a submerged 360-degree

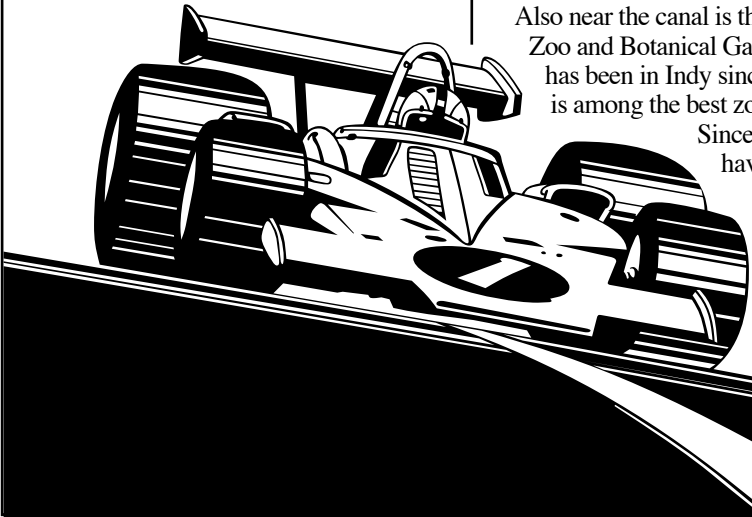
observation area that puts you among the dolphins underwater. This is something that everyone should experience.

A short bus ride from the canal area is the Indianapolis Children’s Museum. It is the largest children’s museum in the world, and words alone cannot explain how magnificent it is. One of the largest dinosaur exhibits in the United States, the Dinosphere, is located there, and a one-of-a-kind Bob the Builder exhibit will be featured during your visit.

Finally, the Indiana Museum of Art is Indy’s newest museum building expansion. This state of the art facility houses more than 50,000 works that span the history of art. A \$220-million facelift was just completed. In addition to viewing art, you can experience fine dining at two on-site restaurants that are run by the famous **Wolfgang Puck**, or you can take a leisurely stroll on the grounds along the Canal Towpath Trail. Oh yeah, there’s no admission fee on Thursdays.

There’s also the 2006 U.S. Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, an old fashioned ice cream social and exhibit at the **Benjamin Harrison** home downtown, the largest car show in the Midwest on the circle, and an Indianapolis Indians baseball game every day during your stay. You can see the Oscar won by **Hoagy Carmichael** for “In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening” at the Indiana Historical Society on the canal, and there are three different professional musicals near the downtown area while you are here. Additionally, just a short trip away from Indy, you can visit **Bill Monroe’s** Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Country Star Museum, ride a historic 1930’s steam train while dining on a 4-course meal at the Indiana Transportation Museum, drive the fastest rental go-carts in the world at the **Gary Lee Whiteland** Raceway, or spend time touring covered bridges in nearby Putnam County.

There REALLY is something for EVERYONE, so won’t you come visit and give Hoosier Hospitality a try...again? We promise not to bite off your ears or nose! ♥



Reflux and the Voice taken from the *QT Newsletter* of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Although not a substitute for consultation with your doctor, this introduction to the causes and symptoms of acid reflux can help you safeguard your health and voice.

Martin L. Spencer, M.A. CCC-SLP
Voice pathologist
Ohio ENT Surgeons,
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(614) 406-1987
martin_spencer@ameritech.net

Laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) occurs when digestive secretions, chiefly hydrochloric acid and the enzyme pepsin, seep out of the esophagus and irritate the voice box (larynx) and throat (pharynx). LPR is the most common source of laryngeal pathology and may be a contributor to disorders ranging from excessive muscular tension during voicing, to nodules, and even laryngeal cancer.

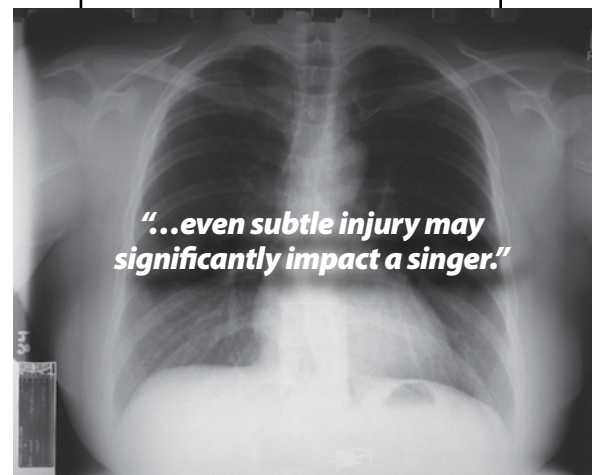
Singers affected by LPR typically describe vocal difficulties such as increased vocal strain or fatigue, reduced tonal quality, loss of high range, or pronounced register disconnect. Additional reflux related symptoms may include speaking voice changes (particularly in the morning), persistent throat clearing, sore throat, hacking cough, nocturnal choking, metallic taste, swallowing difficulty, and throat "tickle" or fullness. To aid in diagnostic verification, a physician or voice pathologist will correlate these symptoms to characteristic tissue changes. Note that allergies and post-nasal drainage may produce similar symptoms; clinical dialogue, and careful usage of treatment should sort out the relative contributions of each potential source of irritation.

Singers are particularly predisposed to reflux through sustained diaphragmatic compression of the stomach during "supported" singing, frequent late night eating, and performance stress.

Laryngopharyngeal reflux vs. gas-

troesophageal reflux

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is presently a more conspicuous media presence (e.g., "the Purple Pill") than its relatively unknown cousin, laryngopharyngeal reflux. It is important to note that many patients suffering from LPR do not present with esophagus-related heartburn, or stomach upset/ulceration. Indeed, many patients are prompted to respond "I don't have reflux because I don't have heartburn!" when first diagnosed with LPR. Reflux may selectively affect relatively delicate throat tissues to



the exclusion of the tougher esophagus. Although GERD and LPR may be considered as separate diagnostic entities by many treatment specialists, medical recommendations for both kinds of reflux are similar. There are no statistics on the related incidence of GERD to LPR, and one condition is not necessarily a precursor to the other.

Causes of laryngopharyngeal reflux

The upper esophageal sphincter is a muscular valve that primarily facilitates food entry into the gullet. The lower esophageal sphincter primarily contains the digestive process within the stomach. Secretions must pass through both of these valves to cause LPR; mechanically through factors such as obesity-related

abdominal pressure, inverted posture, and carbonated beverages. Smoking and certain foods may relax the lower esophageal sphincter, and spicy or acidic foods may compound existing tissue irritation.

Because of the muscular esophagus involvement, it is possible that inherent weakness or transient muscular relaxation may allow reflux seepage. In a contrasting manner, increasing one's stress may overly activate the digestive system and precipitate reflux.

Late eating, within three hours of bed, has been significantly implicated in reflux activity. Hiatal herniation, in which the upper stomach protrudes through the diaphragm, has been implicated in reflux activity, but neither showing to be the cause of the other has yet been established.

Research into the linkage of the digestive and respiratory systems has yielded solid evidence of relationships between reflux and asthma, and even more remotely, between reflux and inner ear inflammation. These far reaching reflux effects are logical when one considers that the stomach is an intensely harsh environment

in which from three to four and a half liters of hydrochloric acid are secreted on a daily basis . . . in addition to digestive enzymes. Somewhat surprisingly, an acidic environment is not necessary for the effective digestion of food; note that modern reflux medications are very effective at suppressing acid production. The purpose of stomach acidity is to comb out potentially harmful microbes in our food, and activate pepsinogen into the primary digestive enzyme, pepsin.

Treatment of laryngopharyngeal reflux

A proton pump inhibitor (PPI) suppresses the chemical messenger that stimulates acid production factories (proton pumps) within parietal stomach cells. (Continued on page 11 ♦♦)

This powerful class of medications used include: Nexium, Prilosec/Omeprazole, Prevacid, AcipHex, and Protonix. PPIs produce the most adverse reactions in users; 1% experience headache, diarrhea or constipation, abdominal pain, flatulence (gas), nausea/vomiting, or dry mouth.

Relatively less aggressive and effective histamine blockers such as Zantac, Tagamet, and Pepcid exert a different mechanism of acid control via the jamming of intra-cellular proton pumps. Both PPIs and histamine blockers are effective for between ½ and ¾ of a 24 hour period, therefore double dosing each day may be necessary.

Common antacids buffer secreted acid, and are the least aggressive medications for reflux intervention. Antacids may also create a foam barrier in the lower esophagus and upper stomach which aids in reflux containment for up to ninety minutes. Basic recommendations specify head of bed elevation and antacid use prior to sleep.

There may be additional merit in a drug such as Pepcid Complete which combines both a histamine blocker and antacid. Likewise, it is possible to combine a PPI and histamine blocker (e.g., Nexium in the morning and Zantac at night), or double dose each class.

All the aforementioned medication classes are now available over-the-counter; however, it would be most prudent for a singer to obtain prior medical evaluation as a physician will be the best judge of duration and level of control. Note that there is little difference in the mechanism of control within each class, and therefore patients should utilize a prescription that is preferentially specified by their particular insurer.

Long term reflux control

We do not have research beyond one year on the long term effects of gastric acid suppression; however, it is common for many reflux patients to use related medications for many years. All pharmaceutical products are potential toxins; the Greek word pharmakon indicates the potential of a medicine to act both as a remedy and a poison. It may be preferential to control reflux activity with behavioral targets such as diet, weight loss, smoking cessation, or stress reduction. Note that intended drug effects may be undermined if these precipitating conditions are not addressed.

Conclusion

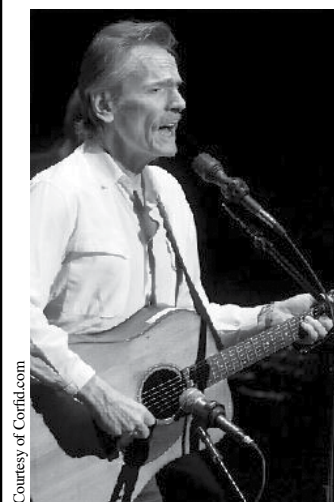
Reflux of gastric juices into the base of the throat is a very common source of laryngeal complaint—even subtle injury may significantly impact a singer. Anti-refluxogenic behavioral and dietary controls should minimize the need for medications, or maximize the intended effect of medications. Readers of this article are strongly advised to seek medical evaluation via endoscopy and interview should atypical throat or voice problems persist for longer than several weeks. ♥

Reference

Ford, C.N. (2005). *Evaluation and Management of Laryngopharyngeal Reflux. Journal of the American Medical Association*, 294(12), 1534-1529.

Gordon Lightfoot joins ranks of honorary members

Gordon Lightfoot Honored By Barbershop Harmony Society



Courtesy of Corfield.com

Legendary singer/songwriter **Gordon Lightfoot** accepted honorary membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society on Saturday, April 22, in Toronto. Lightfoot was honored by the Society for his support of barbershop harmony and the impact he's had on the world of music.

A native Canadian, Lightfoot received his award during the Cham-

pions Show, at the Sir John A. MacDonald Collegiate Institute.

Drayton Justus, president of the Society, bestowed the honor. "It is our great pleasure to honor Gordon Lightfoot in this way," Justus said. "His music already has etched an indelible mark on modern culture. We like to think his early experience in barbershop harmony encouraged him in some way."

Lightfoot was a member of the Orillia, Ontario, chapter of the Society. His first barbershop quartet, *The Collegiate Four*, was formed in late 1952 prior to Lightfoot entering high school. They won first prize on the CBC television talent contest "Pick the Stars" in the fall of 1953.

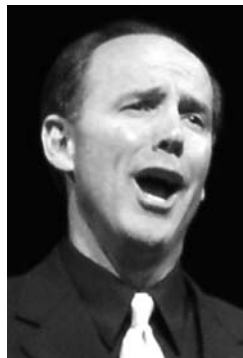
His second quartet, *Teen-Timers*, competed in regional barbershop contests and placed second in November of 1955. The group's performance schedule is said to have rivaled that of groups performing more contemporary music. The quartet disbanded as its members pursued university education.

Lightfoot volunteered his time to perform during a barbershop chapter's charity auction in 2001. As part of that event, he sang with the award-winning *Toronto Northern Lights chorus*.

The singer/songwriter has five Grammy nominations, 17 Juno awards and the Governor General's Award, the highest official Canadian honor, among many other honors.

He joins artists such as **Dick Van Dyke, Irving Berlin, Meredith Willson, Victor Borge, the Osmond Brothers, Sherrill Milnes** and **Gene Puerling** in an elite group who also have been honored by the Barbershop Harmony Society. ♥

Getting to Know *Quadrio*: by Grant Hunget



Matt Moore



Rob Mathieu



Michael Troyer



Grant Hunget

Matt Moore (Bass) received his barbershop debut in his junior year of high school. The school musical that year was *The Music Man*, with him being one of the members of the quartet. He was hooked from that point on. He has sung with several quartets on the international stage with a highest finish of 15th. He's looking forward to getting back there very soon.

Rob Mathieu (Tenor) is a second-generation barbershopper and sings in the *Heart of America Chorus*. He has also sung in a number of quartets, including *Good Vibrations* with his Dad (and **Grant**), *Tagtime* with his brother, *Grandstand*, *KC Blend* (with Matt), and now *Quadrio*! Rob is a husband to **Haley Mathieu**, a father to **Dane Mathieu** (2 mos), and enjoys entertaining crowds with an acoustic guitar. So...bring on *Quadrio*!

Michael Troyer (Lead) began barbershopping in high school with the **Yoder** clan from Cass County. What a way to start! His first competing quartet was with the *4-Ever Pals* with **Wes**. Michael also sang lead for *3 Men & A Melody* for three years while attending Northwest MO State University, where he received a vocal performance degree. They placed as high as 2nd place on the International Collegiate stage during that time. Michael has also sung in other quartets including *4th Dimension* and *The Buzz*.

He is a proud father of three awesome children, **Jaycee**, **Jocelyn** (both 10), and **Spencer** (he's 4, and just as ornery as his dad!) and thankful for his loving wife, **Crissy**. Michael and his family reside in St. Joseph, MO, where he is currently the Lead Section leader for the *Voices of America Barbershop Chorus*. Michael is very excited and proud to be singing lead in the next upcoming CSD quartet, *Quadrio*. We hope we make CSD just as proud!

Grant Hunget (Bari) was an Iowa All-State Chorus Member 2 years in High School, then took 2 years of private voice and toured with 3 choral groups in college. A 2nd generation barbershopper (Father **Phil** / District Champ *Astro-Naughts* 1964), he finally wised up and joined the Society in 1993. Previous Quartets include: *Good Vibrations* (with Rob), *New Deal* (with Matt), *From the Heart*, *New & Used Parts* (current *Heart of America Chorus* section leaders), *Surefire!*, and 2005 CSD Champ *Take 4*.

His wife **Michelle** sings tenor with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines (Current #3 International), and with her quartet *Zing!* (Current #13 International)... Michelle's kids **Steven** (12), and **MaryBeth** (9) also have a good ear for harmony. Steven sings with the *Heart of America Chorus*, and MaryBeth will no doubt soon be standing on the risers with Mom. Lots of music in this house!

Grant's having a blast singing with *Quadrio* and is looking forward to great things! ♥

"Your Way Sure Ain't My Way"

Submitted by Wade Dexter

Don't know whether any of you read the editorial by Editor **Brian Lynch** in the Jan/Feb *Harmonizer*, titled as above, which contained letters from three readers, one of them **Burt Szabo**, arguably one of our Society's most talented and highly respected arrangers. If you didn't, here's a quick summary of the meat in each one that I found in the April issue of Editor **Sharon Ocker's** *Siouxland Saga*, the bulletin of the Sioux City, Iowa, chapter. After watching and listening to the tape of the top 20 choruses at Salt Lake City last summer, I'm convinced that these guys have a point. What do you think?

"Three letters to the *Harmonizer* broached a topic that always keeps coming back—what IS barbershop?"

"Burt Szabo, a definite expert, says that many current arrangements are 'straying from the hallmarks of the style,' excessive high notes, too many major sevenths, and too many harmonic sixths, leaning toward jazz. He yearns for our arrangers to return to the true style and for quartets to come back to 'real' barbershop. Another asks, 'Aren't we wanted? Ninety percent of the barbershoppers want to just have fun and entertain home audiences, and not seek medals and awards.' And yet a third says that we are being manipulated into a mind-set that the sound must evolve, 'A New sound for a New Era.' Bosh, he says, we should hold out for 'preservation' and not for changing what is good and the way it has always been."

I suggest you go back and read these three letters. They might provide food for thought. ♥

Where Oh Where Oh Where... Can I Get Personal Vocal Help?

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director

If you are new to the chapter, or unfamiliar with the HOA Web site, or just haven't been there in a while, you may be missing a great source for individual vocal help.

But first, let me ask you: are you taking advantage of the weekly vocal coaching being offered by **Darrell McCune** and the music team? Darrell has an extensive music educator background, PLUS he drives about 150 miles round trip every week AND stays late every week to share his expertise. When your name is posted by Coordinator **Carter Combs**, do try to take advantage of your time slot; if you can't make that one, ask Carter to get your rescheduled.

In addition, check out the first listing under *Chorus Repertoire* on our Web site. It's provided by none other than our May 2 coach, former HOA member **Darin Drown**, now the director of the highly successful Sound of the Rockies Chorus in Denver, and baritone of the top 10 *Storm Front* quartet. He's a heckuva nice guy, as you will have discovered in his visit here; but that's not the point.

The point is the exercises he's provided are sequenced similar to those made famous by the late **Paul Mayo**—each designed to help a specific part of your range, or to help your breath support. If you are serious about improving, or just getting properly warmed up, click on this link and give a listen. It's all free, for skills you'd pay a lot to a voice teacher.

You'll be glad you did! ♥



Hi, Jim,

Thanks for the nice words. It was a very satisfying weekend for me. I got to see some very dear friends, including yourself and your mother. It was great to see the **Bosticks** and particularly the **Yoders**. The longer I live, the more dear old friends become.

You have a first-class chapter there, Jim. They sing well and there is a great organization behind the chorus. The best part, the part that reflects most accurately the health of the chorus, was how many chapter quartets there are. Well done!

I'm glad we were able to contribute to the success of the show. Give our best to our host **Rich Huyck**. He was terrific.

We'll see you in Indy. Best of luck to you and the guys! Singcerely,
Jim Kline
(Bass, Gotcha!)



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter!



First time barbershopper **Brian Bock** owns his own carpet cleaning business. He lives in Stilwell, Kansas with his wife, Amy and sings lead in HOA chorus.



Jake Wozniak is a first time barbershopper attending Kansas University in Lawrence. He sings bass in the HOA chorus.



Dwight Herrick is a returning barbershopper from Excelsior Springs, MO where he lives with his wife Fran. He's a retired millwright from Ford Motor Company and first joined HOA in 1986 as a tenor but now sings Lead until he gets his tenor voice back. ♥



A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

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

TEN YEARS AGO: MAY, 1996:

This issue devoted an entire page to a reproduction of the flyer that announced “Quartet Follies III,” a show that featured quartets only—no chorus—in an effort to provide an opportunity for HOA members to enjoy a major chapter production without having to sit most of it out back stage playing cribbage. The program included *The Aliens*, billed as “One of the Society’s Best Ever Comedy Quartets!,” plus *Freefall*, the 1995 CSD quartet champions, and *Chordial Celebration*. And then there was *Hubbub*, one of our own foursomes, with **Dan Henry** (baritone), **Jim Bagby** (tenor), **Willard Yoder** (bass), and **Manley Vance** (lead). The show was to be presented at the Folly Theater on Sept. 7.

Passport-type photographs at the top of page 10 introduced four new members to the chapter. They were **Phil Veltkamp**, **Dick Korek**, **Todd Anderson** (exhibiting a hearty laugh; somebody must have just told him he’d been picked to edit *Harmonotes* and he thought it was a joke), and **Dave Schieffer**. Three of these guys are still with us and are actively involved in chapter programs. But what ever happened to Dave?

TWENTY YEARS AGO: MAY, 1986

“HOA Wins First CSD VLQ Contest, Will Send 3 of 4 Quartets To SLC” was the glaring headline on the front page of the May 1986 edition of *Harmonotes*. And your editor revealed, with a certain degree of smugness, that he had composed the line in his head while driving up I-29 to Sioux Falls TWO DAYS EARLIER! Of course, picking the top quartets at the CSD spring prelims, two of which were from HOA, was a real picnic, with the *Rural Route 4* having won a bronze medal at the 1985 international contest at Minneapolis, the *K.C. Con-*

nection, a second place finisher at the district prelims in Wichita in 1985, and the Missouri Valley Music Company, of Omaha, the 1985 CSD champs. And out own *Special Touch*, 1984 CSD champions, had to be a shoo-in for fourth place. And when 12 guys from Kansas City who called themselves *The Town and Country Fire House Five Plus Seven* started off in the VLQ competition with those first big chords of “The Old Piano Roll Blues,” and **Joyce Dexter** turned to the *Harmonotes* editor (who was sitting next to her) and said, “Oh, boy, no contest,” how could you blame the guy for his smugness?

FORTY YEARS AGO: MAY, 1966

We about exhausted most of the good stuff from the May 1966 edition by using it in this segment of the column in the April *Harmonotes*. You might be interested to know that Editor **Warren Edmonds** included a better than two-page item in which he attributed the failure of HOA to win their first district championship to a lack of “enthusiasm.” He pinpointed an excess of the philosophy of “We may not win, but we’ll make a bunch of ‘em honest” as an explanation for the fact that HOA regularly finished among the top five but never in first place in district competition. You might say that it was his “farewell address,” because at the end of the article, Warren announced that the new editor of *Harmonotes* would be **Don Thorne**.

Other items of some interest are: Recently **Dan Bowser** presented a slide show that “poked fun at most of the crew and also brought memories of freezing to death during the bell ringing for the Salvation Army last Christmas.” Dan and the chorus committee had selected three songs that could be used at the upcoming contest in Topeka. They would be worked on for two months, at which time two would be concentrated on for use in the contest... The 1967 annual show would feature the *Salt Flats* from Salt Lake City as the headline quartet. Said Warren, “Now is the time to start planning to sell more tickets than **Robinette, Gall, or Waterman**.”...Plans were under way for a trip to visit the Topeka chapter. They did things like that back in those days. The coordinator for this trip was **Joe Costigan**. ♥



The Songs We Sing

by Wade Dexter

In an article in the April edition of *InCider Press*, the Manhattan chapter bulletin, Editor **Karen Nanninga** tells of the “National Anthem Project,” a road show sponsored by the National Association for Music Education and, according to a story in the February 2006 edition of *The American Legion Magazine*, is designed to educate “community members about the national anthem, find out how to support their local school music program, and make music together.” The goal of the National Anthem Project “is to teach 150 million Americans the history and meaning behind ‘The Star Spangled Banner’ and to inspire them to stand sing proudly whenever it is performed.



Courtesy of Baltimore Convention and Visitors Bureau

From the October 2005 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*, Karen quotes the following regarding the origin of our national anthem: “On Sept. 13, 1814, **Francis Scott Key** visited the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay to secure the release of **Dr. William Beanes**, who had been captured after the burning of Washington. The release was secured, but Key was detained aboard the ship overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry, which was defending Baltimore. In the morning, Key was so delighted to see the U. S. Flag still flying over the fort that he began a poem to commemorate the occasion.

“First published under the title, ‘Defense of Fort McHenry,’ the poem soon attained wide popularity as sung to the tune ‘To Anacreon in Heaven.’

“‘The Star Spangled Banner’ was officially made the national anthem by Congress in 1931, although it already had been adopted as such by the Army and the Navy. As its singing became the ceremonial opening of public events and gatherings, the song was held to just its first verse.” ♥

So Long And Many Thanks

by Niel Johnson



Ron McIntire

Once again, I am at a loss of words to express my appreciation to my friends in the *Heart of America Chorus* for the kindness and support shown to me as I depart (once again) for new adventures. To be sure, my departure this time around was unexpected, as I had hoped to return from Iraq to the Leavenworth area for a new assignment that would have kept me around for the next few

years at least. But alas, the Army had different plans for me, and like a good little soldier I marched along as ordered. I am fortunate, however, to be starting an assignment that is an awesome opportunity for me. I am now stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, and am serving as the Deputy Corps Surgeon for the 18th Airborne Corps, a similar position to what I did in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

No need to worry about me getting my weekly requirement of harmony—there are a few choruses in the general area here. I have already visited the *Golf Capital Chorus* in Pinehurst, NC. They are a great bunch of guys who seem to enjoy singing as much as I do, so it looks like that will most likely be my chorus home. I will also visit the *Assembly Chorus* in Research Triangle Park before committing to any group, though. RTP, only an hour away, competes in the Dixie District, whereas the GCC does not. Where I can find a quartet will also help me decide where to settle.

Right now, I am still planning on attending the International Convention in July with HOA. Whether I am still in performance shape or not by then remains to be seen, but either way, I’m looking forward to being there on stage (or off) with you all.

It would be very difficult to adequately thank all the folks who have made my experience at HOA so memorable because there has been so much fellowship and there have been so many good memories. Whether it be at rehearsal, up on stage, on the bus, at contest, at afterglow, or at any of the many other places we’ve shared this wonderful hobby, I have truly been blessed with the opportunity to be associated with HOA. You have also been there in a big way for me during some tumultuous times for me, and for that I am forever grateful.

Thanks again for the memories and continued friendship, and I look forward to reclaiming my 5th row riser position in the future!

‘Til then, I’ll be seeing you...Niel ♥

On The Road With Tone-Henge

by Ol' Bruce



Tone-Henge is in the busy season now. Between out-of-town quartet performances, *HOA*-related activities, and individual judging activities of our two members who are into that sort of thing, there will be only one free weekend during a stretch of ten weeks. That's about as busy as we ever want to be—we're even turning down show bid requests because of the logjam. Hey—slow down—we're four OLD guys!

Our most recent gig was the chapter show in Fort Dodge, Iowa—Saturday matinee, evening show, and afterglow. After we had booked it, they came back to us with a request to come in Friday, stay over, and then lead a youth clinic Saturday morning. US! Pretty scary, isn't it—young, impressionable minds subjected to *Tone-Henge's* assaults on barbershop harmony. Fortunately for the youngsters, there was another guest quartet on the show—*Alchemy*, the 21st-place International quartet for the past two years, from Chicago (you may remember them as the guys who bring band instruments and music stands on stage for their contest sets)—and they pulled in halfway through the session. These upstanding gentlemen were just in time to save the kids from a permanent misapprehension of barbershop.

We didn't have one host for the weekend—our host was the entire Fort Dodge chapter. When we got to the motel Friday night, the whole chapter came over to greet us—we sang them a couple of songs and wound up teaching them tags. They all came over to the youth clinic Saturday morning, they all came to lunch with us, they all came to dinner with us, and everywhere it was more songs from *Alchemy* and us. Ya gotta love it!

By the time you read this, we will have headlined the Hutchinson show, and three weeks later it will be the *Founders' Chorus* in Tulsa. It's a lot of traveling, and time away from home, but it's worth it when you have as much fun as we did at Fort Dodge. ♥

**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE
OF HARMONOTES: MAY 23**

Clifford Manley Vance



Ron McIntire

"You done good!"

Manley would say to those around him, especially his children. And his motto: "Don't do it if you can't do it well" was the creed he lived by. Manley died April 3 at his home near Liberty. He was 80 and was felled by a brain tumor.

The former *HOA* leader was a coach, teacher and administrator in the Liberty, Missouri, school system, a barbershopper and a quartet man. For a number of years he and his wife, longtime active *Heartbeat* **Spike**, ran the Timber Trails Day Camp east of Liberty. He joined the Northland Chapter shortly after it was formed, and when it closed in 1968, he moved his membership to the Kansas City Chapter. Veteran *HOA* members will recall the chapter picnics at Timber Trails that Manley and Spike hosted.

Manley was chapter president in 1984. In his quartet days, he sang a mellow lead with *Principle Ingredient* with former *HOA* members **Dick Henderson**, **Rod Flater** and the late **Wendell Cochren**. Later, he sang with **Jim Bagby**, **Dan Henry** and **Bob Gall** in *Hub-bub*, perpetuating a number of old *Merry Mugs* routines. **Willard Yoder** joined the group after Bob died.

Thirty six members of his *HOA* family sang at the funeral services at Liberty Christian Church:

Mike Mathieu
Ron Abel
Frazier Allen
Ron McIntire

Bob Howard
Dick Irwin
Lud Einess
Don Fuson
Jon Gathright

Rich Huyck
Mike Schumacher
Monty Duerksen
Don Peck
John Erwine

Bruce Wenner
Walt Patterson
Jack Selby
Kent McClean
Carter Combs

Vince Perry
Gordy Coleman
Don Young
Bob Burdick
Chuck Ames

Tom Forsythe
Keith Schweer
Dick Korek
Bob Rutherford
Marty Oldehoeft

Al Higgins
Rick Foreman
John Winfield
Jim Moynihan
Charles Ramirez
Jim Bagby
Wade Dexter (Honorary)

Board of Directors April 2006 Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary/Ron McIntire

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Fortino

Operating fund as of 3/31/06 was \$19,789.05

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Keith Schweer

- Coaching Schedule

Kevin Keller canceled April 11 coaching - job conflicts.

Will critique contest recordings.

Periodic Tuesday nights - **Sheri Hart**

May 2 - Darin Drown - confirmed

June 10 - Singing coach (**Biffle**) and Sheri - planning stage

August 15 - **Jim Henry** - confirmed

Retreat - **Mark Hale** - confirmed

Indy Preparations

Thursday rehearsals set for June 15 and June 22

Qualification taping deadline May 9.

- New Music
Music being selected for the holiday show.

- Staging basics for new members
Considering a basic stage presence orientation session for new members.

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

- Guest Night netted 12 guests. 10 are serious prospects.
- Had some glitches concerning vocal placements and the "Spinerama".
- Overall expenses were \$316.67.
- Considering "Bring a child to rehearsal night." Could be a son, daughter, nephew, niece or grandchild perhaps in the summer after International.

SPRING SHOW REPORT: Jerry Garrard

- Total Sales - \$31,063
- Total tickets (less number of comps) - 1928
- Overall estimated budget profit (expenses still coming in) - \$11,500

OPERATIONS:

Chuck Ames

- Old PA system will be gone soon.
Consider selling through Ebay or other source.

MARKETING: Dick Korek

- Sam's Club donated \$1,000 to the chapter.
- Breakdown of survey cards from both shows by state as follows:
Kansas - 270
Missouri - 303
Iowa - 7
Arkansas - 2
Nebraska - 28

OLD BUSINESS:

• CD Project - Doug Brott

Recording dates are set for May 21 and June 4.

Production team is in place.

Projected expenses - \$18,650.00

Kent Miller is working on grant money or donations to cover expenses. He submitted a questionnaire to be used to approach foundations for grants and has a grant writer willing to help.

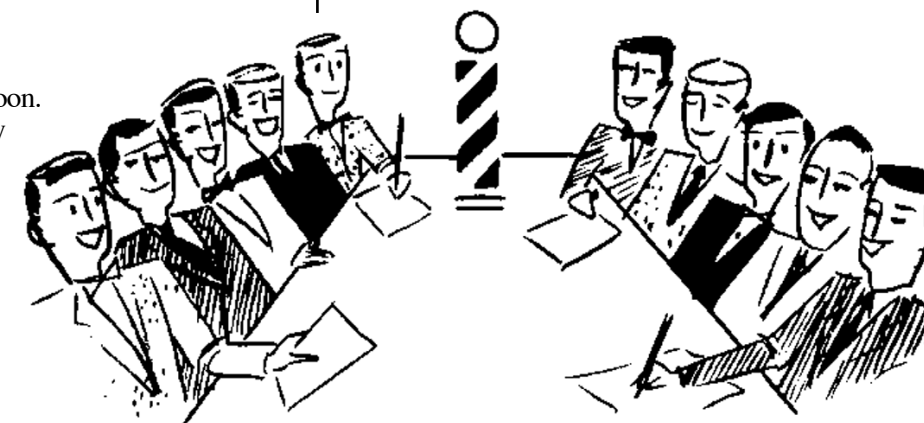
Chapter Calendar: Tony Strub

Would like to establish a master calendar on the members page of the website to include all upcoming chorus events and activities. **Jerry Garrard** and **Vince Perry** will do initial set up. **Rich Huyck** will be the keeper of the calendar.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Spring Show site selection
There was discussion on riser capacity and seating capacity at Unity Village.
Jerry Garrard is trying to set up meeting with JCCC for Yardley Hall. He is on a waiting list trying to set up a schedule.

- Holiday Show wrap-up
Kent McClean pointed out that during the holiday show wrap-up meeting, the women weren't in favor of a third show. ♥



FOCAL POINT: Up Close And Personal!

by Ron McIntire

For those who know **Todd Anderson** only as the *Harmonotes* editor you miss a lot. He's a pretty good singer, though he bills himself as a so-so lead, and a hard workin' graphic artist. Unfortunately, we don't see him often but when he does appear at a Tuesday rehearsal—usually without warning—he always has a happy smile and an outstretched hand waiting to shake yours. You can tell that he misses being there in a big way.

Todd is a Missouri native, born and bred in Joplin. He graduated from Memorial High School in Joplin in 1972 and attended Missouri Southern State in Joplin for a year before joining the Navy, where he served from 1973 to 1977 as a Hospital Corpsman, Emergency Medical Technician and Ocular Technician. He was stationed in San Diego, Bethesda, MD and Philadelphia, PA.

Musically, he played the piano through junior high school but he never kept up with it. Later, he tried the banjo, but gave it up because of his inability to master “picking.” Instead he liked and found more comfort playing rhythm guitar, enjoying it to this day.

In high school, he was heavily involved in school plays and chorus and was always putting on performances of one kind or another. He teamed up with three other guys and began to sing barbershop songs. They didn't have the music, but at least one of the foursome knew most of the words and melody to songs such as “Sweet Adeline” or “Baby Face.” With practice, they learned to woodshed the harmony. “In those days I didn't know anything about barbershop. Had I'd known there was a chapter right there in Joplin, I would have joined in a second!”



Ron McIntire

The group didn't have a name, but in their search for identity, they tweaked the name of a well-known, south-west Missouri quartet called the *Foggy River Boys*. As a joke, they chose *The Misty Meadow Men*...and the name stuck. For a year they hung out near the high school cafeteria, singing at lunch and for assemblies. They charged 10 cents to just put music to the name of a student, a teacher or the custodians. “We became popular enough that lots of kids didn't eat lunch. Instead, they'd stand around listening to us and wanting us to put their names to music. In those days, a dime would buy a *Koolee* or a candy bar at Quik-Trip. Over time, we were making so much snack money that the school principal had to put the brakes on.” After graduation, the group went their separate ways.

Todd joined *HOA* in 1996 and became totally immersed in barbershop for a couple of years. He competed at International in Indianapolis in 1997 and sang with **Raymond Schwarzkopf, Randy Carney and Burt Bray** in a quartet called *The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray*. Work constraints and fatherhood eventually took priority over making music and he was forced to bow out of the chorus. When any free time surfaced, he sang with the quartet. Three of them had families so they really sang mostly for recreation. But the memories remain. “We were fortunate enough to appear on an *HOA* annual show and a couple of Overland Park's annual shows while we were together,” he said. The quartet disbanded when Raymond, their tenor, moved. “Burt, Randy and I still keep in touch and sing as a trio when we can get together.”

“Someday, I'd love to be in a quartet that appears at contest. At this rate, though, it may be as a senior!”

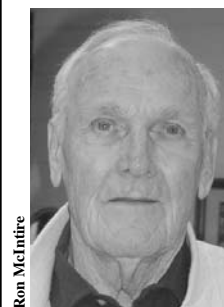
Todd's most vivid barbershop memory was ringing tags till 1 a.m. at the *Guacamole Grill* (after Tuesday night rehearsals) with **Burt Bray, Randy Carney, Dan Henry, Bruce Wenner, Jim Bagby, Dave Krauss, Rod Rule, Rich Huyck, Matt Bostick, Keith Schweer, the Mathieus** and many more. “It was WAY too much fun!” ♥

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Kaut, who first joined *HOA* in the 1960s, died April 15 at a Kansas City hospital. He was 82. A bass, Jim rejoined us in 1990. He was not an active member, but we saw his smiling face on occasion; he and his wife of 53 years, **Gussy**, were regulars at our shows. He was chief administrative law judge here for the Missouri Division of Worker's Compensation. Jim also was active as a Mason and in the Ararat Shrine. His son, **Steve “Killer” Kaut**, worked with **Jim Bagby** as an Associated Press member as several Kansas City radio and television stations.



Where Are They Now? by Ron McIntire



Ron McIntire

Warren Edmonds stopped in at a Kansas City Chapter meeting at the Hotel Phillips in downtown Kansas City one evening to check it out but “there were so many guys there and so much cigar smoke that I never went back. That was in 1952.” He didn't become a barbershopper until later but had been to the International quartet finals where the *Four Teens* won the contest. Kansas City

was hosting the International Convention that year and a friend had invited him to go.

It wasn't until 1961 that he gave barbershopping another try and joined the Kansas City Suburban Chapter in North Kansas City. “They were meeting at Antioch Shopping Center then and I became the Secretary and Bulletin Editor for the chapter.” In 1963, the chapter broke up so he and most of the other members joined the Kansas City Chapter. His experience as bulletin editor made him a good contender so he took over as editor of the *Harmonotes*. That was when **Dennis Taylor** and **Dan Henry** were chapter presidents. To this day, some of the guys who were around then still know him as “Ole *Harmonotes*.”

Warren grew up in the south part of Kansas City and graduated from Southwest High School and the old Kansas City Junior College. After a four-year stint in the U.S. Navy, he enrolled at the University of Kansas and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Though he's retired now, he worked in agricultural chemical research and development for many years.

He has had no professional music training but singing in a barbershop quartet aboard ship and the a cappella choir at KU in the late 40's taught him a great deal. He now does a little arranging on the piano for fun. He sang in two quartets in Kansas City. The first was the *Prairie Tuners* with **Jim Hilleary, Bob Tracy** and **Joe Costigan**. The second was *The Intervals* with **Jim Hilleary, Sal Iannazzo** and **Costigan**. In 1975, he transferred to Colorado Springs and joined the *Pikes Peak Chapter* where he sang for a number of years in a quartet called *The Posse* with **Herb Thomson, Pete Tyree** and **Bob Hand**. Herb and Pete used to sing with the *Hi-chords*, the 1963 Central States Champions, and Pete sang with the 1954 International Champions *The Orphans*.

“I used to consider flying as a hobby,” he says “but I'm too old for that anymore. I am an amateur radio operator now and I spend an enormous amount of time doing genealogy research and gardening.” He and his wife **Betty** live at 1800 Coronado Rd, Excelsior Springs, MO, 64024. “She has put up with all my barbershopping for nearly 57 years.” He moved his membership to the Central States Frank Thorne Chapter in 1991 and currently judges chapter bulletins at the International level.

Warren pops in to the chapter on occasion. When he does, be sure to stop by and introduce yourself. He is among the past members who helped make the Kansas City Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus* what they are today. ♥

A TIP OF THE HAT!

The Tip 'O The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members men and women who have made a contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter over the past month.

A big TOTH to **Mike Schumacher, Don Young** and **Sheri Hart** for extra rehearsals to teach the down-front guys the front row choreography and the chorus to learn their choreography. And to **Don Fuson** and his helpers for making the video CD's of the choreography.

A Tip of the old topper to **Stew Grosser** and his crew of able helpers who worked the superb, April 4 Guest Night festivities.

TOTH congrats to the *HOA* quartets who competed at the 2006 CSD Spring Prelims: *12th Street Rag* (1st place), *Quadrio* (5th place), *Command Performance*, *All In*, *Escape!* and to the Collegiate quartets: *Against the Grain* (1st place) and *Ringtunes*.

Finally, A TOTH to **Todd Anderson** for capturing CSD Editor of the Year honors. District Executive VP **Don Fuson** presented the plaque to Todd during the April 25 rehearsal. *Harmonotes* now moves on to International bulletin competition, with the final results announced in July! ♥



Ron McIntire

Barbershopper Of The Month



Ron McIntire

March: Jerry Garrard

In grateful appreciation for your work as chairman of the 2006 Heart of America Barbershop Show and for making this one of the best shows in the 60-year history of performing at the Musical Hall. ♥

Xtra Mile Award



March: Grant Hunget

In recognition for assisting the chairman of the 2006 Heart of America Barbershop Show in every way possible to make the 60th show at the Music Hall the best ever. ♥