



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY®

VOLUME 09 - ISSUE 9 - OCTOBER 2009

Third-Generation Mathieu Stars at Lyric Opera

by Joe Mathieu



MATHIEU

Shawna and I are obviously very proud of **Dylan** for trying out for and being asked to participate in the musical "Tosca" at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. We would like to thank all of the members of *HOA* who helped Dylan by contributing to his Lyric Opera camp scholarship. He had a great time at the camp and learned a lot. It was the experience at the camp that served as the springboard to his audition for "Tosca."

When they offered Dylan a part in the children's chorus, they told us right up front that a huge time commitment was required. There were three hour rehearsals almost every night for three weeks prior to the first performance. **Shawna** took Dylan to rehearsal most days and nights, but my Dad and Shawna's mom volunteered to help us take Dylan both to and from opera camp and to and from Tosca rehearsals. We'd like to thank them as well.

According to Dylan, the performances went well for the most part. One of the kids tripped and fell down the stairs during one performance, but other than that it seemed like everything went without a problem. Shawna and I attended our first opera on opening night and thought it was a great show. It was the best opera I've ever seen in person, but it was also the only opera I've ever seen in person! It was a packed house and it looked like a typical crowd that would attend one of our shows. (On a side note, we should advertise all of our shows in their program. We're missing a great opportunity to sell tickets by not taking advantage of that. Other musical groups in the area had prominent advertisements for their shows in the opera program.)

I hope Dylan gets this opportunity again in the future. It was very tough for him to do at this time of year with school starting up at the same time. Seventh graders have a lot of homework, (at least more than they're used to) so a lot of nights he was doing his homework

in the van on the way to and from rehearsal. Add to that guitar lessons, baby sitting gigs and religion classes and he's one busy kid. He's been able to make most barbershop rehearsals as well so we'll both be on stage with *HOA* in Lincoln!

I want to thank everyone again for their support. *HOA is awesome!* ♥

My Tosca Experience

by Dylan Mathieu



MATHIEU

I have had fun doing the opera "Tosca" for the Lyric Opera in downtown Kansas City. It has been a very great experience in staging and acting. Thank you to everyone who supported me! I would have never had enough money to get to have this opportunity. It has taken a lot of time and dedication to be able to do this. It is now almost over so I might be able to sit down in a couple of days. I did not expect to make it into the play and was surprised when I got the call. It was great getting to meet the stars from all around the world. I hope I get this experience again sometime and thank you all! ♥

(Editor's Note: Dylan is the grandson of *HOA's* **Mike Mathieu**)

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HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, Mo., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society®, a non-profit organization. Photographs that are not attributed are the work of our photographers at large. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

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

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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 (Editor)

2909 West Trevor Trail • Ozark, Mo. 65721-8438
(417) 581-2961 • andersondesign@centurytel.net

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, at St. Thomas More Church, 118th & Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64131. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chorus Manager & Webmaster - Vince Perry
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



Direct From The Front

by David Krause, HOA Chorus Director



As I write this, it's the morning of our coaching session with **Brandon Guyton** and I assume we will have a great rehearsal tonight. That means we will have worked with three-fourth's of *Crossroads* in the last three-fourths of this year. Guess we should give *Fred* a chance sometime soon.

I'm also just back from my trip to England/Ireland which was perfect. I had some great advice from most of *Tone-Henge* before I left and it proved helpful. I also had the very enjoyable experience of singing "Danny Boy" in a very authentic small-town Irish pub in Dingle with several local musicians. Of course, it was simply named Murphy's Pub. I'll show you the t-shirt tonight and play the CD by those musicians sometime for some of you if you'd like.

By the time you read this I assume we'll be about ready to do our best performance in a while in Lincoln. Three rehearsals counting tonight to really get our two songs ready. Can't wait to raise the level just a bit at each rehearsal. Of course, that all depends on all of us being there and really "filling our boxes" with A level stuff at each rehearsal. I'm lookin' forward to the fun! ♥

Always Moving Forward

by Doug Brott, Chapter President



As I sit here, writing this to make the deadline for **Todd**, it is 18 days before we are to be on stage in Lincoln for the Fall Contest. When you read this, the contest will be over. But that certainly is not the end of it. Every person on the risers, and a number that are not there, has worked hard to improve and move *HOA* forward. It is fun singing with 70-80 guys instead of the just 40-50 we have been singing with. Hopefully, even after contest, a large number of the men who have not been singing with *HOA* consistently will be able, and choose, to continue.

We still have a long way to go. As you read this, we will be starting our preparation for the Holiday Show. Songs to learn, TICKETS TO SELL, so much to do. We need these shows to be sold-out. Start thinking of everyone you can shout the opportunity to. They want to hear us sing, they just don't know it yet.

When the Holiday show is over, then we have singing Valentines, our Annual Show (with *Lunch Break* as our headline quartet) and then, hopefully, International. *HOA* is a busy chapter. Never time to rest.

That's it. Short, but sweet. Let's keep moving *HOA* forward. Let's keep touching our audience and making a difference in their lives. Let's keep asking men to sing with us and experience what we are so privileged to experience every week.

Thanks to you all. Remember: *Excellence in All We Do!* ♥



HOA's '09 CHAPTER PICNIC! by Carl Turlin

Picnics are great, aren't they? The aroma of grilled meat, a cool autumn breeze, folks chatting, a tag here and there. What could be more soothing to the spirit than another HOA picnic, especially when you can enjoy the peace of Lake Quivira from **Don** or **Harry's** pontoon boat as you quietly glide through a cove!

This past Sept. 13, about 30 folks gathered at the Sailing Club's shelterhouse for our annual picnic, hosted by **Don Peck** and **Harry Stewart**. Once again, we feasted on grilled chicken, burgers and franks, as a tag or two rang out, even as **Doug Brott** and **Jim Bagby** manned the cook's helm.

We're glad you joined us for this time-honored social gathering. If you missed it this year, look for it again next Fall and be sure to bring a jacket!

At top, from left to right: Attendees were drooling as cooks **Jim Bagby** & **Doug Brott** flip the hockey pucks (burgers); **Stew Grosser** (on the left) loads up as **Jan Putzier**, **Mary** & **Ron Fortino**, **Brook Meyers** and **Mike Mathieu** fill up their plates; **Larry Colburn** targets the baked beans as **Mary Lou Coleman** (L) and **Gini Colburn** (R) prepare for the HOA chow hounds. *Below, left to right:* **Rick** & **Yvonne Foreman** chowing down; **Fran** & **Lorraine Gangel** prepare for a boat ride; Everyone enjoyed the great fellowship as well as the great food! *Bottom:* Ahoy, USS Heart of America! ♥



Lounging on the levee,
List'nin' to the nightingales way up above,
Laughter on the levee, no one's heart is heavy,
All God's chillun got someone to love.

When it's darkness on the delta,
Only heaven is in sight,
When it's darkness on the delta,
let me linger in the shelter of the night.

Photos courtesy of
Carl Turlin and Jana Moynihan.

— (WHEN IT'S)
DARKNESS ON THE DELTA
(Levinson / Neiburg / Symes)





Barbershop Odyssey by James Moynihan



MOYNIHAN

In 1976 I worked for the federal government in Washington, D.C. An organization called *Volunteers for the Visually Handi-*

capped organized recreational activities for blind persons. One day we attended a barbershop concert at Constitution Hall. This concert featured the *D. C. Capital Chorus* and several quartets.

That was my first exposure to barbershop singing. Approximately 40 men were on stage and to me the sound was incredible. When I heard those chords, I was hooked. This was not the *Thoroughbreds* or the *Vocal Majority*, but to me it did not matter. All I knew was that the sound was wonderful.

The chorus gave the audience a postcard where you could provide your name and telephone number to be contacted. Several weeks went by and I got no response, so I forgot all about it. Finally I received a postcard saying that there would be a meeting on Monday evening at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church on 36th Street.

I took the bus to 36th street and I was told this was Saint Paul's Presbyterian church and that the Lutheran church was across the street. Being an Irish Catholic I thought "they're all a bunch of damned heretics anyway" but I finally found the Lutheran church and walked in to the meeting.

Jim Bagby says that they join for the music but stay for the fellowship. I decided to sing tenor, thinking that anybody could sing lead. I met a tenor named **Howard Cranford** who said it was an honor to sing with me. What a wonderful thing that was to say to a newcomer.

Howard did not sing falsetto, he was a pure tenor. He sang with a quartet called the *Columbians*, who had placed fifth in the Mid-Atlantic District contest. Later I found out that Howard was only human. Before the chorus song a song he asked me, "What's the first word?"

At that time my guide dog was named **Hogan**. I asked about getting a ride to the barbershop rehearsals. **Frank Laden** was an engineer and said that wouldn't be a problem. Frank placed a blanket in the back seat of his car and Hogan lay on it, to keep hair off the seat.

At that time, the Mid-Atlantic was one of the strongest districts in the Society, as it is today. The *D. C. Capital Chorus* had no chance of being able to sing in international competition. They sang to have fun and for the sheer enjoyment of singing.

Singing in a chorus is fun, but there is nothing like singing in a quartet. I became the tenor of *Hogan's Heroes*, named after Hogan. **Dr. Jim Hummel** was the bass of our quartet. He was a professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland. Every year, Dr. Hummel worked on grants from such institutions as the National Science Foundation. His work was extremely stressful, resulting in colitis. Jim's physician told him that he needed to find some kind of outlet or hobby, or he would be a dead man in 10 years. There is a correlation between music and mathematics and Jim found that barbershop was the outlet he needed for his creative talents. Jim said that since our quartet needed to rehearse, I might as well stay for dinner. All members of our quartet had a great deal of fun.

In 1980, I married **Jana Sims** and moved to Kansas City. I needed to find out how I could participate in barbershop. I learned that *HOA* met in the Federal Building. I told myself that I knew what barbershopping was all about. The instant I heard *HOA* sing I realized that this was singing on a much higher level. I was going from Double A ball to the major leagues.

In 1981, *HOA* competed in the international competition in Detroit and came in sixth place. I last sang in international competition in Denver in 2007. *HOA's* last international competition was in Nashville in 2008 but I was not able to sing because of my wife's cancer.

I discovered that chorus singing involves learning words, notes and choreography. You have to know the words cold. **David Krause** calls it over-learning.

You might ask how a blind person learns words, notes and choreography. I have learned the words by using learning CDs provided by the chorus. **Dale Neuman** has provided me with cassettes that he downloaded from chorus websites. Using a tape recorder, you learn the song from beginning to end through constant repetition. I learn one song each day to keep from being overwhelmed. If you can sing the words and not think about them, you know you have mastered them. I learn notes by singing along with the CDs and cassettes and by bringing a recorder to chorus rehearsals. Sectional rehearsals are also very helpful because I learn that I may be singing some words and notes incorrectly.

For me, choreography is the biggest obstacle. I found out that I was not smiling enough; when my daughter came home we would have smiling practice. She explained that there is a difference between a smile and a grimace. She also told me to relax and not move like a robot.

I have received a great deal of help from **Merlin Barcus, Ron McIntire, Mike Schumacher, Don Young** and lately from **Fran Gangle**. But over the years, the person who has given me the most help and displayed a great deal of patience in learning choreography and staging is Professor **Dale Neuman**.

I was unaware that I have a habit of resting my chin on my chest. I would correct this flaw then lapse in to my old habits. Dale finally threatened to tie a string to my neck to pull my head upright. Dale would come to my house week after week, working on "Runnin' Wild," "Harmony," and other barbershop songs. One day I asked Dale why he was spending all this time teaching me choreography. Dale said that standing next to me while I was participating as a member of the chorus on the risers was his reward for teaching me the choreography.

(Continued on page 5 ♦♦)



The important thing for me is to contribute to *HOA* and the important thing is to "get it right." I may not be aware that I may be singing too loud, or that I should be looking at the audience instead of at the director. It is helpful for members of the chorus to point these things out to me so I can make necessary corrections.

Our children are now grown and living in St. Louis. They are getting married this year and our plan is to sell our house and move to St. Louis.

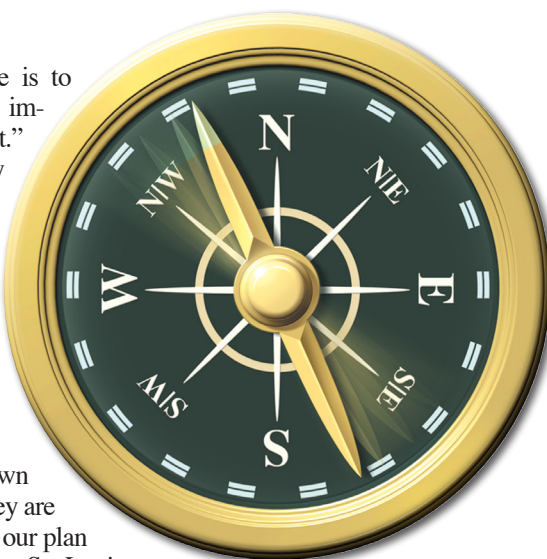
Naturally, I plan to continue to sing barbershop.

Why not sing with the best, which is the *Ambassadors of Harmony*? To this end I auditioned twice for *AOH*. I was told that I had failed the audition, but there are other choruses in the St. Louis area.

I was told that there is a blind person in the Alexandria chorus. They point his head at the right angle so he would face the director. Apparently what would work for Alexandria would not work for *AOH*. They also had a person with braces who auditioned, but "there were issues." When you have a disability I am sure there are issues.

On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted into law. I know that there are a number of blind persons singing in barbershop choruses, because a volunteer records the *Harmonizer* on cassettes.

As of this date we have not been successful in selling our house. We will have an open house the day after our son's wedding. I plan to continue singing as a barbershopper, but that chapter in my barbershopper odyssey has yet to be written. ♥



Quartetting by the Aged is a Precarious Venture

by Ol' Dan for *Tone-Henge*



This time around it was the guy in the quartet that's the oldest, but the one who sees himself as "Gibraltar". Me.

The BIG MAN above decided it was time to show me I ain't 'solid-as-a-rock.' He got my attention!

So I'm the one that caused the quartet to cancel shows and I'll be the absentee in Lincoln when there's a chance to entertain a bit in hospitality rooms.

In the past it brought a sense of superiority to me while pointing the finger of blame at any of the other three. "I'm the Old coot!," I'd say, "But am I the guy that wasn't available for (A,B, C,) etc, etc. Nooooo! Not ME!"

Well, rats ! What finally caught up with me was a ruptured disc in the lower back. Sciatic nerve pain that can't be described without using LOTS of #*!*&!! and !*^%@##!*! I even resurrected some old Navy adjectives that should have been long forgotten.

Well, one wonderful neurosurgeon later, back and nerve are completely fixed, but a few other problems remain, like an 84 year old water-control gland that has forgotten where the "open" switch is located.

But the worst part is...I can't point the finger of blame at those other three. And even though I know they hate to cancel shows, I can feel them inwardly smiling... 'cause it's the OLD coot's fault.

So, quartetting by the aged is a precarious venture, but I highly recommend it anyway! ♥

Harmony Foundation Report by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. One fourth of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation and one fourth will be given to the Central States District to help promote their programs to support and encourage Young Men in Harmony and other youth programs.

As of Sept. 23, after 41 drawings (4 since last report):
The total collected for Harmony Foundation since the last report is \$193.
The total collected for the year to date (since Nov. 10, 2008) is \$3,287.
The total for the previous year was \$1,808.
The total in our best previous year (2006) was \$4,234.

The progressive jackpot has grown to \$469 at the time of the report. ♥



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1999

Mike Neff, of the *HOA* chorus, and **Pat Duncan**, of the *Kansas City Sweet Adelines*, were hard at work planning for the Third Annual "Holiday Harmony Spectacular" to be held on Dec. 4 at the RLDS auditorium in Independence. This time they were testing a new seat allocation for the audience.

According to Mike, it was to work like this: "Instead of having individual reserved seats, this year we are going to have reserved "blocks" of seats. In other words, sections of the hall will be blocked and marked based on the various ticket prices. The tickets will be color-coded according to price, and show patrons will be able to sit anywhere in those blocks. Because of the size of the hall at RLDS, we thought this might provide a way to bring the audience closer together, instead of having sections of people scattered throughout (the hall)." Does anyone recall how that worked out?

TWENTY YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1989

As I went through the Oct. 1989, issue of *Harmonotes*, I discovered an article by **Dale Neuman**, who was *HOA* Program Vice President during that year. Dale was announcing the programs for each month during the rest of the year, and one of them caught my eye. I think it's kinda cute. Dale says: "Nov. 7 will be 'Sing with the Champs,' our fund-raiser for Logopedics, where for \$5 you can sing a tag and \$10 a song with the *Rural Route 4*." I was curious enough as to how successful this fund-raiser was that I found the Nov. 1989 issue to see if there was a report. And sure enough, "PVP Dale Neuman tells us the 'Sing with the Champs' venture with the *Rural Route 4* on Nov. 7 had to be scrubbed. As most of you probably know, tenor **Don Kahl** has departed to take a new job in Dallas, which has knocked the *RR4* out of any local action." But Dale said he also had something in store for the Nov. 7 meeting. Right on the ball, Dale.

FORTY YEARS AGO: AUGUST, 1969

Chapter President **Bernie Geier** announced that the new uniforms had arrived in time for the district contest on Oct. 18, thanks to **Gil Lefholz** and the Uniform Committee. Bernie promises that "we will look the part of a championship chorus when we appear (on stage) at Omaha." Bernie also adds this admonition: "One more thing before the contest. We all want to enjoy ourselves at Omaha, but we also want to win. To win, we must be prepared. **Don (Thorne)** has taken care of that part. We must also be in top shape when we are on stage. This means there will be no drinking Saturday before the chorus contest. We have not had to keep a member from appearing in the last five or more years because of breaking this rule. We don't want to start this year. Let's all go to Omaha and have fun, but abide by the rules." I was unable to uncover any evidence that any member of the *HOA* chorus failed to abide by that particular rule.

But did we win the district championship in those new uniforms? Well, in the Jan., 1970, *Harmonotes*, in a review of the year 1969's accomplishments, I found this: "Under the superb direction of **Don Webb**, the 'Heart of America Chorus' placed second out of 21 competitors.... Many of the long-time members felt that this was the best the chorus had ever sung in a contest.... They ended a mere 29 points from winning their first chorus contest." The winner that year was the 'Chordbuster Chorus' from Davenport. ♥

High Definition Entertainment

by Rob Mathieu



MATHIEU

As of last Saturday morning (9-19-09), *High Definition* finished recording our first self-titled album, *High Definition Entertainment*. The CD will have a total of 12 tracks starting with 'The

Song's Gotta Come From the Heart', and ending with 'Goodbye World Goodbye', both arranged by **David Wright**. Mark has been working countless hours mixing the tracks. Matter of fact, last week, he took a week of vacation to work 60 hours on the album at home. We love this guy, and his efforts go beyond compare.

It has been a lot of work over the past couple months to come this far on the project, but I must say that it has been the most productive rehearsal we have had. The repetitions alone allow for Sync problems and Tuning issues to resolve themselves. What an exciting and yet rewarding experience the recording process holds

We are planning on taking pre-orders, and introducing a couple new tunes at the Past Champs Show in Lincoln, NE. We are gunning to have the CDs available at the Holiday Harmony Spectacular on Dec. 5.

It's been an exciting year for *High Definition*, from qualifying for International in April, to the birth of my daughter **Ella Rose**, to the making of our first CD, and now to have 11 immediate family members of *High Definition* singing with *HOA* in Lincoln, NE. How awesome is this?

Ron Fortino, Mark Fortino, Anthony Fortino, John Fortino, Jonathan Fortino, Daniel Fortino, Jerry Meier, Mike Mathieu, Joe Mathieu, Dylan Mathieu, and myself.

Can barbershopping get any better than this? I don't think so.

High Definition would like to thank our families and friends, the *Heart of America Chorus*, *The ShoMe Statesmen* and the Central States District for their continued support. Without the support of these people and organizations, this extraordinary year could not have been possible. ♥

— **Mark, John, Adam and Rob**

Heart of America Financial Corner

by Kent Miller, Financial Committee



MILLER

Exciting news! The Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City (ARTSKC) has asked *HOA* to be the opening act for their Annual Luncheon to be held at Starlight on Friday, March 5, 2010!

When we were awarded the grant for Harmony Explosion from the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City, **Dale Neuman** said, "This is good news as, in my experience, success begets success in the area of grants for two reasons: other grant givers see validation in the fact that you have "won" previous awards from others; the grant recipients gain confidence in their ability to "win" and apply more often with more enthusiasm."

We now have an opportunity to capitalize on our success with ARTSKC. How important is this event? Here is what **Mark Fortino** said in an e-mail to the *HOA* board, "Every major corporation in KC buys a table at this event. CEO's, CFO's, and top executives all come to this event. These are the BIG donors to the ARTS in KC. IF we are chosen to be the opening act, it really is an incredible opportunity for our chapter."

Mark said "if" because it was not written in stone at the time of his e-mail, but we just received word today (Sept. 23) that it is official. The e-mail from **Laurie Hess** at ARTSKC said, "Congratulations! It is unanimous! You guys are in! This is so exciting!" Obviously they are excited about our participation and we should be excited as well.

Now we will need a commitment from all of you to perform at this event. It could not only lead to more grants and donor funds for *HOA*, but because of the exposure in front of the movers and shakers in KC, it could also lead to performance opportunities which can also lead to increased membership.

Although it is a luncheon on a Friday which can be difficult for some, the chorus would only perform a couple of numbers, so the total time commitment should be less than an hour for most of us.

Please reserve the date and plan on attending. ♥



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We Shine the Spotlight On Our NEWEST MEMBERS!

Here's your chance to learn more about the newest member of the Kansas City, Missouri, Chapter!

Article and photos by Ron McIntire



Tom Gray is dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. He has performed in amateur theater in high school and college and currently sings lead in both the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA* choruses. He and his wife Lisa make their home in Leavenworth where he works for the Department of Army Civilian/Education as a training specialist for space operations. He is currently the Program VP in the Leavenworth Chapter.



Bill Bay is a 40-year barbershopper and a dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. His musical background includes singing in mens choral groups in college and has been in more than eight barbershop quartets almost since he joined the society. He is a retired, ten-year veteran school teacher and worked as a school maintenance director for the last 22 years of his career. Bill and his wife **Pam** live in Leavenworth, KS and sings bass in *HOA*.



David Webb is a 14-year barbershopper and a dual member with the St. Joseph, MO chapter. His musical background includes high school choir, men's and mixed quartets, and piano and saxophone up to graduation. He joined the St. Joseph Chapter in the late 1980s and sings lead with the *Voices of America* and *HOA*. He currently sings in the quartet *Chordtime*. Dave works for FCS Financial in St. Joseph and he and his wife, **Marsha**, live in Dearborn, MO.



Ed Witham has a rich musical background. He has a Master's degree in music education and taught elementary, high school and junior high band and choir. He sang with the *St. Joseph Community Chorus and Chamber Choir* and has sung in church choirs for 40+ years. He is a six-year barbershopper and sings in the quartet *Chordtime*. He is retired from both the Kansas and Missouri Education system. Ed is dual member with the St. Joseph, MO chapter and sings baritone with the *Voices of America* chorus and *HOA*. He lives in St. Joseph with his wife **Lori**.



Scott Haines is a first-time barbershopper living in. He has an extensive musical background singing in church choirs, State choirs, high school choirs, the Lawrence Civic Choir and a barbershop quartet in high school. He sings Tenor in *HOA*.



Max Filmore is a first-time barbershopper and lives in Lenexa with his wife **Janet**. His musical background includes guitar for the fun of it, singing in the church choir and has done solo work at weddings and funerals. He is a software developer by trade and sings bass with *HOA*.



Ed Grape is a 15-yr barbershopper and a dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. He sings lead with both the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA*. He is currently between jobs now but his specialty is in Sales and Customer Service. He has no formal musical training but plays a little guitar from time to time for enjoyment. Ed lives in Leavenworth with his wife **Gayle**.



Harold Clark is a 40-yr barbershopper and a dual member with Leavenworth, KS chapter. He sings lead in both the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA* and sings with the quartet *Escape*. He attended the Kansas City Conservatory of Music for two years and has had several years of voice lessons. He really enjoys directing church choirs though he is not directing at the present. Harold is a retired prison guard and lives in Leavenworth with his wife **Anna**.



Jeff Garrard is a first-time barbershopper and a dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. He sings lead with the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA*. His musical background includes high school choir. Jeff is the brother of **Jerry Garrard** and the elder member of the **Jeff and Bronson Garrard** team joining *HOA* from Leavenworth. Jeff is a project manager for the Kauffman Foundation and lives in Olathe.



Bronson Garrard is first-time barbershopper and a dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. He sings lead with the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA* and plays trumpet in his high school band. He is the junior member of the **Jeff and Bronson Garrard** father/son team joining *HOA* from the Leavenworth chapter and is a student at Olathe Northwest High School.



Mark Grisham has been an off-and-on barbershopper for six or seven years since the late 1990s—two years were with *HOA*. His musical background includes church choir, saxophone and some piano in Jr. High School, and he sang with the quartet *Arpeggio* when he was in *HOA*. He is now a retired investigator from the FBI and lives in Leavenworth, KS with his wife **Cindy**. He is a dual member with the Leavenworth chapter and sings bass with the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA*.



Carl French is a two-year society member and a dual member with the Leavenworth, KS chapter. He sings bari with the *Cody Choraliers* and *HOA* and sings with the quartet *Last Free Exit*. His musical background includes playing trumpet in high school and college and a little professional work, but that was long ago. He is a retired Boeing structural engineer. He and his wife **Jane** live in Leavenworth. ♥

WELCOME, GENTLEMEN!

WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU SINGING WITH US!



October 1 **John Landry**
 October 3 **Rich Rusche**
 October 12 **Jim Kemper**
 October 14 **Brad Dawdy**
 October 27 **Rob Varney**

I'm so old they've cancelled my blood type.
 — **Bob Hope**

When I was born I was so surprised I didn't talk for a year
 and a half. — **Gracie Allen**

When I was young I was called a rugged individualist. When I
 was in my fifties I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and
 saying the same things I did then and I'm labeled senile.
 — **George Burns** (*Just you and me Kid*, 1979)

DEADLINE FOR THE
 NOVEMBER ISSUE OF
 HARMONOTES:
OCT. 21



In Ring Number One... The (3) PPP's!

by John Erwine, VP Membership



ERWINE

Now, introducing in ring number one...Patience, Persistence and Perpetuity...The (3) PPP's!! Okay, so I just made that up. However when you think about it, it does make some sense. These three descriptors of what we must keep in mind as we improve membership are probably pretty accurate.

As reported earlier we have inducted seven new members this year, plus 11 new dual members from the Leavenworth and St. Joseph chapters, a great windfall. That has really helped fill some of the holes we've incurred on the risers over the last months, and they're certainly doing their part to help reinforce the total sound of the chorus.

I reported a total membership of 154 in my September report to the Board. We have been hovering around the 140-143 mark (without Leavenworth and St. Joseph) since the Jan. 1, even with the addition of the seven new members. Most of this variance is due to the loss of some older members. A couple developed other interests. In looking forward, although I still see potential for "real growth," I am also aware of the upcoming loss of several more members for similar reasons. This is not to say we're doing anything particularly wrong, but sometimes that's just the way the cookie crumbles. So as you see, even under the best of circumstances it's tough to overcome the reality of life and choices that have to be made to accomplish "real growth." This is where the **3 PPP's** come into play.

Our guest count has been down over the last two weeks, but that is also where the **3 PPP's** are important. However, we have perhaps three or four real potential members from recent guests that are holding off for awhile before making a commitment. In follow up conversations with them, they know we are in a contest mode now and feel it just isn't the right time for them to become involved. Most have also indicated that after the Lincoln Convention, they will be more interested in returning for more serious consideration. So here we have both not so good, and good news. Again, the **3 PPP's**.

I think now is a perfect time to continue prospecting for new guests and caress retention. *Why?* The convention will be over in two and a half weeks and sleigh bells are just around the corner. Be gearing up to encourage those guests you've recently brought, and new ones, that mid October would be a great time to become involved with HOA. We'll be learning new music, bushing up on some we already know and their intimidation level will be at a much lower peak. They'll be getting in on the ground floor for a wonderful Holiday experience. The **3 PPP's**...I kind'a like the sound of it. Remember...it's your Chapter! ♥

Listen Up! by Jerry Garrard



GARRARD

Can't you just hear **Mike Schumacher** getting upset with the chorus because he can't hear someone talking? Every time he says, "ListenUp!" I feel like running down to the front row and placing some advertising money in his hand. Thanks, Mike. Actually, you might owe us royalty money!

Over the past few months we've been spending a lot of time getting coached and focusing on our songs for shows rather than contest. *Why, you ask?* Well this is quite an honor actually! **David Stockard** (Bass) is getting inducted into the William Jewell College Hall of Fame for his sports achievements during his college years. That's right! Back when **Dan Henry** was still in black & white, David was quite the swimmer. David will be returning to William Jewell College on Saturday night to get this very prestigious award. So, due to David's fame, we will only be able to appear on the contest stage Friday night. Why would we pass up a great opportunity to get an eval and have totally NO pressure? - *Congrats, Dave!*

Two contest tunes is never enough for the four of us to get together, so we've been working with **Rob Mance, Mike Slamka, Sheri Hart, Bruce Wenner, Jim Henry**, and probably you...to get some input on our performance readiness. Can't ever get too much coaching when you have the talent we have...*err...*wait - I think I read that a few months ago in the *Tone-Henge* article. Anyway! It's been a joy working with those coaches and we want more - so if you're listed above, know we're coming back!

Speaking of *Tone-Henge* and Dan...they are worthy of more than me taking advantage of them being an easy target. Due to Dan's recent surgery, we were approached to fill in for them on the Olathe Chapter Show the 3rd of October at the Mid America Church of the Nazarene - Bell Cultural Events Center (same place as the KCSA Send-off) for two shows and an afterglow. Thanks, *Tone-Henge* - and get well soon ol' Dan.

Did I mention that **Tom Wenner** (baritone) has a new car? It's sharp and gets more miles to the gallon than **Moses'** sandals. Be sure to ask him about it, before he starts telling you. I can't get him to shut up if he starts talking first! It's a great deal for him. He's traveling 45 miles up hill both ways - in the snow, just to get his Microsoft Certified Professional training. I'm glad Tom got the hybrid. Now, we can transfer Tom's share to 'Famous Dave'.

Carter has now officially traveled to more places than Willard Yoder mentions while singing "I've Been Every Where, Man" He's been to... *where was it again, Carter?* (I was too busy looking at Tom's new car!)

Me...well, I do nothing! Actually, I need to stop writing this article now to make it to a rehearsal. What night is this? And I clearly recall the membership guy saying, "It's only one night a week..." RIGHT!? ♥

A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

A big Tip 'O The Hat to the 36 guys who braved the heat and weather to show up for the *Music In The Park* performance, Aug. 16, only to see it rained out. And to the unknown several who got the e-mail about the rainout and went home. It was a great disappointment to the cicadas. And, hats off to **Dave Krause** and his new quartet, *KC Prime* for an impromptu three-song performance before an uproarious crowd of *HOA*ers a few early-arrival Overland Park citizens who stuck around until lightning prompted the park people closed the park.

A Tip Of the Tam to **Charles Ramirez** and the uniform/costume crew who worked hard to select suitable costumes for the district contest in Lincoln, NE, and to **Vince Perry III** for again watching over and taking care of the hotel and chorus registrations for the contest. *What would we do without these guys?* ♥

Harmony Handful Update

by Rich Huyck



The *Handful* have been fairly active during this late summer season with Sunday morning church services. Most recently we provided music for **Ron McIntire's** Episcopal church in Blue Springs. By the time you read this, *Handful* will have participated in a mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on Sept. 27. By the way, this church generously provides a meeting room for the *HOA* Board of Directors on the second Monday of each month.

For every singing ensemble, adding new music to the repertoire is an important effort. *Handful* is now adding three new songs; "Abide With Me," "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Rock Of Age's" to a repertoire that includes songs like "River of No Return" and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" as well as a number of songs suitable for church services and other functions.

And, of course, we want to look good when we perform in public, and **Marty Oldehoeft** and **Bob Howard** continue to do great work in clothing us! They have selected a new casual shirt for the group and **Jon Gathright** and his son have designed a great logo to be embroidered on this shirt.

The quest for a permanent meeting place has finally been accomplished. Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church has graciously offered to provide a *Handful* rehearsal home for our monthly meetings!

There can be no doubt that *The New Harmony Handful* is now well established and having a lot of fun and singing very well! ♥

Barbershopper of the Month



Larry Colburn - July 2009

Kent Miller (right) presents Larry Colburn (left) with the July 2009 BOTM.

In recognition and grateful appreciation for your work organizing and running the *Heart Of America Chorus* Food Pantry Collections Program for St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

Extra Mile Award



Don Young - July 2009

HOA Executive Vice President Kent Miller (left) presents Don Young (right) with the July 2009 Extra Mile Award!

In grateful appreciation for your work filling in and running the meetings for Program VP Carl Turlin during his three-week absence in July, 2009.

Photos courtesy of Ron McInitire.

Heart of America Chorus Calendar

October 9-10

Central States District Convention
Lincoln, NE

December 5

Holiday Show
Unity Village



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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