



CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 08 - ISSUE 8 - SEPTEMBER 2007

12th Street Rag Says Goodbye After 14 Years

by Mark Fortino

It was 14 years ago this past July when **John** and **Mark Fortino** returned from Calgary after watching the *Gas House Gang* win the International Quartet Championship. They were so pumped up; they just knew they had to form a new quartet. That very August, 1993, with **Rick Kready** on tenor and **Keith Schweer** on bass, *12th Street Rag* was born. That October, *12th Street Rag* placed third the Central States District convention and won the District Championship the following year in 1994. The Spring of 1994 started a string of International appearances that would continue for nearly a decade and a half with **Micah Jeppesen** (tenor) and **Barry Moore** (bass) stepping in to "carry the torch" in 1997 and 1998, respectively. It has truly been a dream come true and a lifetime experience that we will never forget.

12th Street Rag had several goals. The first and most important was to sing and perform at a high level – shooting for top 10 and then some. We always joked that, based on our rate of improvement, we would get our Gold Medal by the time we were eligible for the Seniors Contest. From 1994 through 2007 the placements went like this: 36th, 36th, 37th, 34th, 43rd, 27th, 17th, 23rd, 21st, 15th, 11th, 15th, 11th and 15th. Anyone want to bet that if we stayed together, we'd be 11th in 2008?

The second goal was to impact audiences and individuals in a way that they would be truly entertained. We were so blessed to have performed in 25 of the 50 states and Canada and to have had the chance to get to know some wonderful people.



Top Photo - (Clockwise from top) Rick Kready, Keith Schweer, Mark Fortino, John Fortino

Bottom Photo - (From left) Mark Fortino, John Fortino, Barry Moore, Micah Jeppesen

Then, of course, the youth movement was a mission of ours from the beginning. Over the years we performed at numerous youth events, school tours and had the privilege of singing and working with over 10,000 kids during our tenure. In 2003, we were honored as a quartet by being named the Central States District Barbershopper of the Year for our work with the youth.

The emotion that we feel at this time is impossible to describe. We have been friends for nearly a decade and walking away from this quartet is not a decision we have made lightly.

So why end it? It's not a personality conflict like you hear about in a lot of quartet endings, although John can be a pain in the... uh, never mind. It's not because John and Mark's uncle **Luigi** was going to put cement overshoes on Barry and Micah if we didn't win the Gold. It's not because Micah and Barry never could learn to do the "sign-of-the-cross"...because they tried VERY hard to do it...really...they did. It's not because everyone always thought Barry was the best-looking guy in the quartet because we sang for a lot of blind audiences...or was that blind judges...or was that deaf judges? No. Although those would be all have been good reasons to break up, the real reason is pretty simple. Our most important goal was to sing and perform at the highest level, with continual improvement. Although we continually improved over the years it became apparent that we had reached a plateau.

(Continued on page 2 ♦♦)

HARMONOTES

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Heart of America Chorus

Chorus Director - **Jim Bagby**

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

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

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

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

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

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

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

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com

Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com

Chorus Manager & Webmaster - **Vince Perry**

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12th Street Rag Says Goodbye

(Continued from front cover)

When we compared that level of achievement to the 10 years of wear on this three-state quartet, we came to the realization that it was time. But, it was not a no-brainer. It was extremely difficult to break up.

If we all lived in the same city, it would make it much easier to continue, and we think we would still be together today. One interesting thing is that man-for-man, each of us feel that what we accomplished was remarkable - that we were able to keep it together this long with Barry flying from St. Louis to Kansas City (thank God for Southwest Airlines) and Micah driving six hours round trip from Omaha to Mark's house to practice several times a month—and sometimes every week during contest preparations. Although we are officially announcing our retirement, we plan to honor our show commitments. We are currently booked through 2008, but don't plan to accept any further shows at this time.

It is not possible to thank everyone who touched the *12th Street Rag* family over 14 years, as there were so many. However, there are some people who were really almost a part of our quartet. Our special fifth quartet members along the way were: **Jim Bagby** (lifetime friend and coach); the late **Harriet Gall** (vocal coach in the early days of *12th Street*); **Al Higgins** (for all the school tours he put together over all 14 years); **Joe Connelly** (who got us into the top 20 for the first time in 2000); **Bill Biffle** (our sugar-coat everything – “wish he would just cut to the point” vocal coach for the past seven years); **Brandon Guyton** (new to us this last year but one of the major reasons for our high scores at prelims and an indescribable talent); **Mike Slamka** (whose friendship and guidance has been immeasurable—oh yeah and great coach, too – “every word with purpose”), and **Cindy Hansen**, without whom we would have never had two 11th-place finishes. Finally, there has been a guy behind the scenes whose contribution to our success has been enormous. That man is **Chuck Ames**, fellow *Heart of America Chorus* singer and keeper of the keys of Platte Woods United Methodist Church near the Kansas City International Airport. The availability of a rehearsal location so close to the airport was critical to our success. Chuck, as they say, “thanks for the use of the hall” and thanks for your friendship.

To the *Freemont Pathfinders*, *Ambassadors of Harmony*, and *Heart of America* choruses, we thank you for your undying support. Over the years we were honored to be a part of your chapter shows and to be one of your chapter quartets. Your friendship and encouragement will never be forgotten.

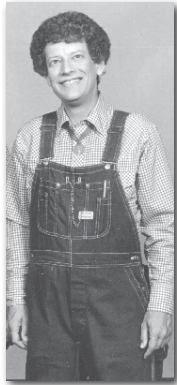
It is not possible to express our gratitude to our wives. **Carolyn** and **Kim** allowed Micah and Barry to be gone week after week for 10 years for rehearsal in Kansas City. For 14 years, **Leann** scheduled and rescheduled monthly trips to her family farm in western Kansas around the quartet shows, coaching sessions etc. For 10 years, **Sarah** has been running a hotel, changing beds, putting out fresh towels etc. so that Micah and Barry would have a comfortable place to sleep each week. Ladies all we can say is we love you with all that we are, and we thank you for making our dreams come true.

If there is one thing that has been a constant in our lives it has been the support of the Central States District and the friends that we have made throughout the country. As we began calling our show commitments to let them know of our decision, we were reminded of **Jim Henry's** keynote address at Harmony University. While it is true they never hung a Gold Medal around our necks, so many of you have reminded us over and over of the buckets of Gold Medal moments we have shared with you over the past 14 years. Right to the end, you all have supported us and continue to support us even through this retirement. The Lord has truly blessed us with each one of you. Thanks for the many memories that we shared; they will never be forgotten. ♥

Retirement of a Director

by Don Kahl

(the tenor singer who STILL looks OK in overalls!)



I'm not going to go into great detail about my feelings concerning the "stepping back and away" of your director. I know it's happened before and he's always "stepped back up and into" the directorship. I also have known him for nearly 35 years. We've been through some tough times, but mostly my trip with him through this hobby has been packed with lots of "ups" for me. It's been "the greatest ride in barbershop history!"

I probably don't have to even send this message, but I couldn't read what I read in the *Harmonotes* without "chiming in" with something. **Jim Bagby** has directed many of you on those risers for longer than I have known him, too, but my wish is make "dead sure" that some of you who are either new to the art or to the *Heart of America* family REALLY know what it is that you have been honored to witness and flourish under. Sometimes we are very "close to the forest," sort of like the people who live close to Disneyworld or Niagra Falls. **James Bagby** has simply been the heart and soul of the *HOA* for more years than I can count, and on many, many levels. He has simply done it all, lovingly, persistently, consistently, and with all of the commitment there is. He has pulled, pushed, caressed, cajoled, fostered, shepherded and in some instances has given darn close to all he had for you, his district and the Society! His well is pretty deep and when it came to barbershop harmony, that's just the way he was raised by his mom and dad.

How blessed you have been to have had him to direct and bring you along. Sure, it may be time for a change and a new face, but the fervor, gile and loving toughness with which you all have been honored, must NEVER be taken for granted or forgotten. And still, even though stepping away from in front of you every week and every performance, his presence and legacy WILL, without a doubt, be a part of you and those who follow you on those risers. You've all seen what he has given over the years. Begin to challenge yourself to give as much!

That's pretty much it from me. Everyone please take care and may the new man NOT try to fill the shoes that preceded him, but begin to create his own legacy. I am sure that Jim and I both look to the future with excitement. All the best to the family! ♥

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 are designated to Harmony Foundation. PLEASE NOTE that the Board is considering alternatives for the funds raised for Harmony Foundation. The following is from an E-Mail from **Duane Lawson**, who is proposing a change.

Background- I have been asked by the district to be the Collegiate Quartet Liaison and work with the District Youth in Harmony VP. When working with chapters across the district, there are chapters that would like to get involved, but may not have the funds or resources to get started. An example I used in the meeting was when I was the CSD Young Men in Harmony VP and helped Topeka, KS start an event. I helped them write a grant through Sweet Adelines and assisted through the district funds. In trying to write a grant through Harmony Foundation, it was during a period when they had decided that they were not going to accept grant applications.

Don't get me wrong. I am a big fan of the Harmony Foundation. But, I will be approaching all chapters to consider using some of the funds that have already been set aside to go to Harmony Foundation, and sending directly to the Central States District Youth In Harmony Fund. In my opinion, it will give a "local" resource to help out when grants or chapter funds are shy in funding an event and cuts out the one of the middle men.

As of Wednesday, August 22nd, and 40 drawings:

The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$207.

The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$1,740.

Last year, the total raised to this point was \$4,077.

In 2005, the total raised to this point was \$1,919. ♥

You Might Be A Barbershopper

...if you watched the first round of American Idol and made a list of potential recruits in your city, for your chapter.

...if your most prominent bumper sticker is "I Can't, I Have Rehearsal."

...if you think *Air Supply* would have been much better with a good bass.

...if your wife no longer cares how you got makeup on your shirt.

...if you look like a bottled water deliveryman, carrying around a 5 gallon jug of water.



Interesting Time of Year for *HOA* by Jim Bagby, Lame Duck Arm-Waver

This is an unusual time for the *Heart of America Chorus*, from a number of perspectives.

For one thing, I can't remember the last time we changed one of our competition numbers between the July international and the October district contest. But that's how confident we are (a) in our members ability to devote themselves to the learning process and (b) the appeal of the new/old ballad.

It doesn't hurt that our section leaders, AKA "New and Used Parts," did an exceptional job of laying down the tracks for "That Old Quartet of Mine," a classic **Lou Perry** arrangement with a tag given a little juice by our own **Dr. Bruce Wenner**. **Carter Combs**, **Mike Neff**, **Grant Hunget** and **Keith Schweer** spent an intense evening in front of **Mark Fortino's** microphones, making sure that not only is every note perfect, but so is the interpretation, color and shading that the chorus will sing. That recording work is just part of the great support and help I get from these four guys and new bari section leader **Al Fehlauer**.

And then, of course, Mark did his usual masterful job of mixing and producing the final product. In fact, he had the MP3 files to Vince Perry for posting on the *HOA* Web site by the next day -- and **Mike O'Dell** had burned enough learning CD's to have them available to members by the following Tuesday. The result is that by the time you read this, we'll be off paper and well into the performing. And my prediction is that OQ will score AT LEAST as well as "Time after Time" would have come Oct. 20 at the Music Hall.

And if it doesn't, I think you should fire the director.

That's obviously another thing that's different these days: I keep thinking of "last time" moments or events, which is a weird feeling. Being in a transition period, wondering who the new director will be, probably is a little odd for all of us and (I hope), exciting at the same time.

It's also an unusual time because in one of the metro area's worst heat waves ever, we're already singing holiday songs. But as soon as the CSD competition is over, we'll jump headlong into preparations for the Dec. 1 holiday shows. Look elsewhere in this issue for the full list of songs we'll sing, and the eight-parters with the *Kansas City Sweet Adelins*, who by then could well be world champion gold medalists! It will be, as always, one of the highlights of the year. Don't forget, we're looking for soloists to audition for "Do You Hear What I Hear?" It's a rangy trio, but not restricted to any particular voice part. See me or Bro. Neff if you're interested.

It will be a special show for me with the *Rural Route 4* joining *Zing!* as headliners. It's only the second show we will have done this year, and the first with **Don Kahl** on tenor. I hope you'll plan to be in the *HOA* chorus for the December performances -- and not just because it will be the last time I'll be your arm-waver. Bruce has done a new eight-part arrangement of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" that I know you'll relish. **Dr. Burt Szabo**, arranger of another new one for us this year, "The Night Before Christmas," as well as "My Pretty Little Jesus" (one of my all-time favorites) has been invited to attend the shows. We're keeping such chorus favorites as "Joy to the World" and "O Holy Night," so it should be just a great singing experience for all of us.

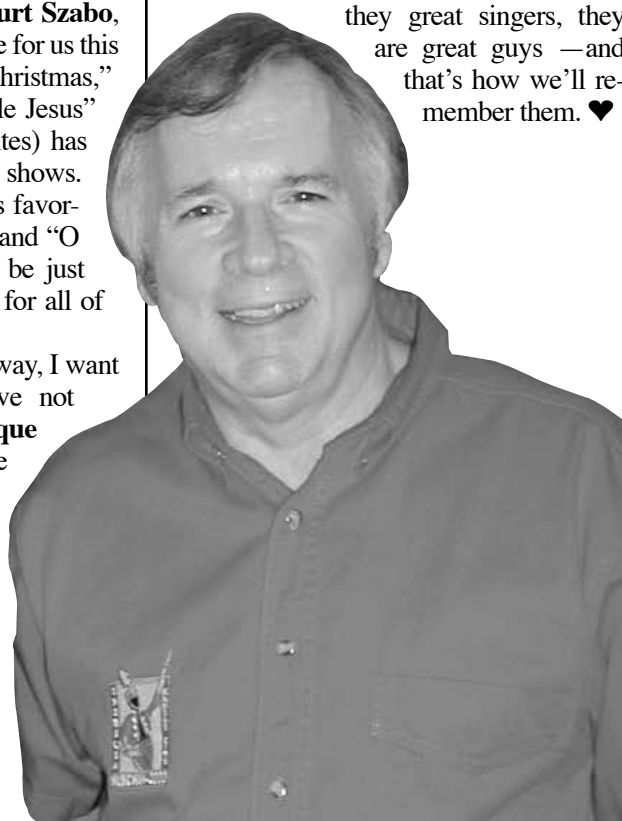
Before I totally ramble away, I want to thank some others I've not mentioned. **Mike Louque** and **Jerry Garrard** have become valuable additions to the music team. Mike's creative "Runnin' Wild" staging was a key part to the mid-A scores we received from some judges (and I thought should have been more)

in Denver, and he's working on upgrading the package for this fall. **John Fortino's** coaching was always helpful, and although he's not active with *HOA* now, we hope to be able to count on him occasionally in the future. I don't know of any harder-working person in the chapter than **Mike Schumacher**, whether it's with extra staging sessions or any other job you ask of him. **Don Young** and **Jerry Meier** also have provided invaluable organization with the front row, and **John Landry** works behind the camera and behind the scenes.

Dan Henry made the RW train, and **Marty Oldehoeft** is redoing it for district with **Bob Howard**. It got a little derailed and bent on the trip west.

Finally, let me suggest that few CSD quartets, including the gold medalists, have had as much impact over the years as *12th Street Rag*. Certainly, few quartets have made more friends or been a more audience-friendly, popular show quartet, in each of their combinations. Lou Perry used to say "The audience looks into your eyes and decides if they believe you." That where so many speakers, ministers, comedians, singers and quartets fail.

Never *12th Street*. Not only are they great singers, they are great guys -- and that's how we'll remember them. ♥





Guidelines For Singing

Editor's Note: Former HOA member Niel Johnson submitted this piece. "Greetings again from the Dixie District. I was leafing through an old church hymnal at my son's bible camp and ran across this text. I thought it was interesting, and would be a nice newsletter filler item." You're right! Thanks, Niel!

From "John Wesley's Select Hymns," 1761

Learn these tunes before you learn any others. Afterwards, learn as many as you please.

Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all. And if you have learned to sing otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you to take it up, you will find it a blessing.

Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

Sing modestly. Do not brawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of

the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together so as to make one clear melodious sound.

Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the song, but offered to God continually. So shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven. ♥

Search for Our New Director

by Doug Brott, Search Committee Chairperson

As you are all aware, **Jim Bagby** has decided to "hang up the baton," so to speak, after a long and successful career as Director of *HOA*. As soon as we read his letter, we started working toward the difficult job of finding a replacement.

The search committee is in place and moving forward as expeditiously as possible. Search Committee members are **Chuck Ames, Doug Brott, Carter Combs, Brad Dawdy, John Landry, Vince Perry** and **Barry Sanders**. We have already met several times and have our process well defined. Letters have been sent to individuals in the area that we felt might be interested in applying. In addition, many flyers were posted at Harmony University and given to many of the more than 100 people that attended as directors. E-mails have been sent out to the Directors net and an article appeared in the recent *CSD Serenade*.

We have also talked with persons from other choruses that have recently had to find new directors. We are confident we will find the right person to lead us forward in the next era of *HOA*. We will keep you posted with significant happenings as we progress. If at any time you have questions or suggestions, please e-mail or talk to any member of the committee. ♥

Tone-Henge Rehearsal Recipe

by Ol' Bruce



Someone actually asked *Tone-Henge* back for a

repeat performance! We sang for the Foxwood Springs retirement community, despite the fact that we had sung there a year or two ago. Very receptive audience, just like last time. The only problem was in getting out – of course everyone wanted to meet **Dan Henry**. But we've gotten used to that, especially with this age group.

We learned something from that performance – WE NEED PRACTICE! So we've scheduled more rehearsals in the near future than we've had in the last three months. With our aversion to hard work, we've found the ideal way to rehearse. All four couples gather somewhere for cocktails and cut-rate appetizers at a location close to the rehearsal site – we've tried the Bristol, Yahooz, EBT, Trolleys, the Elephant Bar, and Houlihans, among other venues, and they're all good. Then the quartet heads for "rehearsal" while the ladies find something else to do. After the cocktails and appetizers (especially the cocktails) we are constantly amazed at how good we sound. OK, we know what you're thinking, but it sure does work for us. ♥



A Great Crop of Singers!

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



MURPHY

Well, maybe we are past the summer slow-down because in the past month we have had more visitors than usual. It was a good variety of singers.

Ken Foreman, brother of **Rick Foreman**. He sings with *Sound of Aloha* in Hawaii.

Rodger Abbott has visited several times and is in the process of filling out the membership application. He has been the guest of **Stew Grosser**.

Leon Foreman, he is also brother of **Rick Foreman**. He is from Aubrey, Texas.

Jerry W. Willis, from Kansas City.

Adam Droegemaeller, from Lee's Summit. His work schedule and travel schedule does not permit him to become a member at this time.

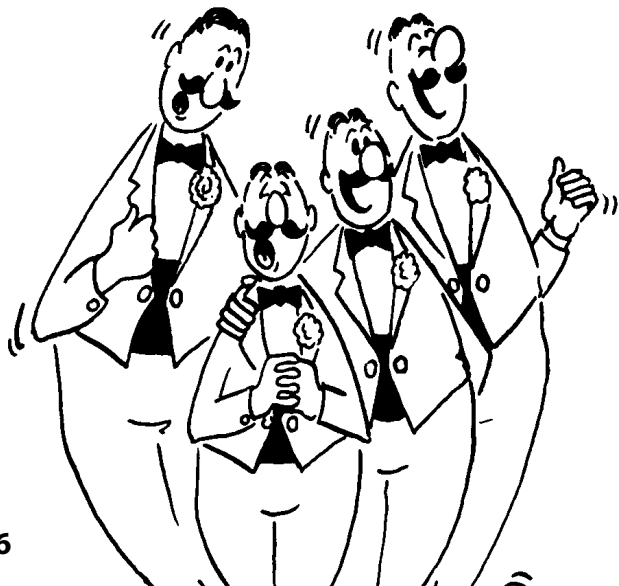
Dave Baehr, from Overland Park, KS has been with us two times and is a guest of **Gordy Coleman**.

John Hammel, from Leawood, KS has been with us three times and has asked for an application for membership. He learned of *HOA* from the Springfield, MO chapter.

I would like to remind all that the only way we will grow membership is through your bringing guests to a meeting. Don't twist their arms to become members. Just bring them and let them judge for themselves if ours is the right organization for them. If we show them a good time, have them sing with us, tell them that we have all sorts of learning aids, perhaps we will get some new members.

I would also remind you that we still have the opportunity we had last year. For every new member you bring into the Society, you will receive a 20% discount of your national dues.

Think new members! ♥



A New Tenor For Quadrio

by Grant Hunget



Kready

In August we underwent a personnel change in our quartet. Many thanks to **Rob Mathieu** for the great times during our time together, and best wishes to him in his new quartet. We are pleased to announce that **Rick Kready** will be singing tenor with us as we move forward. As a 3-time District Champ (*Special Touch* - '84, *12th Street Rag* - '94, and *Take 4* - '05), he brings a ton of experience and talent to our group. He has appeared multiple times on the International stage, and recently took over director duties with the Topeka Men's Chapter. *Welcome aboard Rick!*

We will perform on the Trails West Olathe Chili Supper Show Oct. 13, and then sing the trophy away to a new Champ at the CSD Contest in Kansas City Oct. 20. See you there! ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

September 5	Thom Tisdall
September 6	Jerry Garrard
September 8	John Braden
September 10	Rich Huyck
September 11	Willard Yoder
September 12	Ken Hennix
September 13	Walt Bates
September 14	J.B. Witham
September 15	Ron Abel
September 16	Sam Solomon
September 23	Phil Veltkamp
September 23	A.J. Meier
September 24	Frazier Allen
September 26	Mark Meyer

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

SEPTEMBER 30

Friends vs Barbershop Friends

Editor's Note: Thanks to John Landry for submitting this tidbit found floating around the internet

If one is deprived of Barbershop Friends, this will serve as an excellent educational tool for why they need to look into the possibility.

- **Christine White**, Bari
SAI, CAL, REG21, Albuquerque, NM

FRIENDS: Never ask for food.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Always bring the food. And lots of it.

FRIENDS: Will say "hello."

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Will give you a big hug and a kiss. More than one.

FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Call your parents Mom and Dad, and really mean it, too.

FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Cry with you. And for you.

FRIENDS: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing, and just being together. Then do the dishes before leaving.

FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you. And most of the time know you better than you do yourself.

FRIENDS: Would knock on your door.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, "I'm home!" If you are not home they will wait.

FRIENDS: Are for a while.

BARBERSHOP FRIENDS: Are for life. And then some. ♥



**"SKIP THE
FLOWERS, HONEY.
WHERE IS
THE LOCAL
BARBERSHOP
CHAPTER?"**



Here's Mike Louque receiving his certification from Presentation Category Specialist Joe Hunter Jr., in St. Joseph, Mo., on July 30, 2007. The outstretched hand belongs to Society Contest and Judging Committee Chairman Larry Clemons. Photo courtesy of Hank Hammer, singing Category Specialist from San Antonio, TX, and a longtime friend of HOA.

Summary of August 2007 Board Meeting

By Rick Foreman/Ron McIntire

Treasurers Report: Ron Fortino

Operating fund \$1,064.26, Members Fund \$6,979.21, Total Restricted funds \$7,177.26.

Music/Performance Report: Carter Combs

There is concern about the lack of attendance on the risers. Running Wild will probably be retired from the repertoire after the district competition. Discussion underway, but 8-part songs for Holiday Spectacular not yet finalized. Other alternatives for next year's retreat are being investigated. Possible retreat dates for next year May 16-17.

Program Report: Carl Turlin

The annual picnic is scheduled for September 23, 2007 at Lake Quivera.

Looking for alternative sources for free printing of In Tune each week to conserve budget.

Old Business:

Endowment: **Tony Strub, Dick Korek**

Discussion concerning an annual mailing to solicit funds for the endowment and the need for a document detailing the disbursements of the endowment by the board.

New Business:

Director Search: **Doug Brott**

The search committee is trying to attract applicants that meet the criteria to help the chorus reach its goals and a compensation package that will attract a qualified director. The board will determine the limits of the compensation package. ♥



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



DEXTER

TEN YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1997:

Not having a September 1997 issue of *Harmonotes* to search for news for this segment, I peaked into the October 1997 edition to see if I could find something there. Once again, as has

happened numerous times since I've been an *HOA* member, the contents of that issue were overwhelmingly indicative of what can be expected of a large, active, highly motivated and well-managed chapter.

Right there on the front page was an item by **Mike Neff**, who was co-chairman for *HOA*, announced the coming of the "Holiday Harmony Spectacular," the very first collaborative Christmas show with the Kansas City Sweet Adelines to be held on December 6 at the RLDS Auditorium in Independence. This performance has been an annual presentation ever since.

Then **Don Peck** filed a story about the great success of the fourth annual *HOA* retreat at the Mount Conference Center in Atchison, Kansas, on September 12-14. The coaches were **Marty Lovick**, a Presentation judge and a member of the Harmony College faculty, and former *HOA* member, **Don Kahl**, also a former *HOA* member, at that time a four-time gold medalist (with the *Vocal Majority*) and tenor with the international champion *Rural Route 4*.

And that's not all! There's an account of a trip by the *HOA* chorus to Manhattan, Kansas, to be part of the show scheduled after the first CSD Southwest Division preliminary quartet contest. Seventy-four singers piled into two buses for the trip. Author **Don Peck** explains, "By all accounts, this very first quartet preliminary in the new format was a success." Did I miss something? Wasn't the division or-

ganization of the district discontinued some time before this event took place? Apparently it wasn't considered that much of a success because the system is no longer used. Am I right or wrong?

And, oh, yes, even our beloved "Heartbeats" were busy planning for their ninth annual Christmas Party/meeting/auction at St. Peter's church of Christ on December 9. Wives, daughters, mothers and friends were invited.

But not all the news was good news. Away back on page 13, in less than half a column, Dale Neuman reports on something probably nobody else wanted to write about--the third place finish by *HOA* at the district contest earlier in the month. To my recollection, it was the only time that a Bagby-directed *HOA* chorus ever placed lower than second place. But it was close; the "Barberboys" of St. Joseph beat them by only nine points.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1987

You know, I don't ever remember this one. *The Heart of America Chorus*—my chorus—was booked for a show at the Granada Theater in Kansas City, KS, on September 12. The theme was "Quartets...and All that Jazz," with the *New Red Onion Jazz Babies*, the *Rural Route 4*, the *Jubilee Transfer*, *Just Friends* and "Dr. Marvin Faulwell at the Magnificent Grand Barton Organ." I couldn't have forgotten it, because I put a bill that occupied an entire page in MY bulletin! Did anybody see me there? I'll cry myself to sleep tonight.

FORTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1967

On the last page, away down in the lower right-hand corner, almost forgotten, is a small announcement of the passing of **Edgar E. Schlieb** on August 17. Eddie was a member of the Kansas City chapter for 27 years, during which he founded the *Gamboliers* and sang lead with that quartet for many years. ♥

Christmas is Coming!

HOLIDAY SHOW eight-parters:

Pretty Little Jesus
O Holy Night
Joy to the World
Holiday Blessings
O Come, O Come Emmanuel (new arr. by Bruce Wenner)
Pine Cones & Holly Berries
Silver Bells, Children's Medley

HERE ARE THE SEVEN SONGS HOA will do on the Holiday Show: (in this tentative order)

1. Caroling, Caroling
2. I Have Seen the Light (with 3 soloists)
3. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
4. The Night Before Christmas
(with quartets and narration - new Burt Szabo arr.)
5. Light the Legend
6. Do You Hear What I Hear
(with 3 soloists - see Jim or Mike if you wish to audition)
7. All Rise (Mark Fortino, soloist)



Zing! CDs Now Available

by Grant Hunget



Zing!'s very first CD is now available! You can procure your very-own copy for \$15 each, from me at HOA meetings.

If you need one mailed, please contact **Michelle Hunget** (Add \$3ea for S&H):

913-764-8755/home
zingtenor@kc.rr.com

Zing! is currently the 5th-Ranked International Sweet Adeline Quartet.

For those unaware, my wife **Michelle** sings tenor in this fine quartet. They will be competing again at International in Calgary Oct. 8-13 attempting to move on up. ♥

Harmonotes Guidelines

by Todd Andersn, Editor



Your *Harmonotes* editorial board—composed of myself, **Don Fuson, Wade Dexter, Jim Bagby** and **Ron McIntire** are seeking (a) more concise articles and (b) especially material about *HOA*.

Even those issues we'll send off for the 2008 contest will need to follow the same above criteria, as we'll be seeking points related specifically to what the judges are looking for.

This brings me to something I need to address. As editor there have been times where I've had to perform triage—eliminating certain items in order to get more timely info to our readers.

As always, we encourage articles and photos from *HOA* members. If you need help with a topic, feel free to holler at any of us. But be forewarned: there may be times where your contribution might not appear. *Why?* Because we have an arrangement with our printer—FedEx/Kinko's—to print 12 pages a month (other than non-contest issues) and we don't want to take advantage of their generosity. Since I don't have a clue what might arrive from month to month, I do my dead-level best to get everything in. Unfortunately, due to space constraints (or the above guidelines), sometimes there are casualties. My hope is that everyone will understand my plight and won't think I'm only cutting *THEIR* offerings.

I do appreciate your zeal to pick up the pen or a camera and hope this won't put a damper on that! After all, how else could *HOA* have made it to second place, Internationally, without *YOU*? Come to think of it, how will we (hopefully) win first place in 2008 without *YOU*?

So please stay active with your contributions. I'll do all I can to get your hard work printed! Thanks! ♥

Quartet College & Ice Cream Logic

by Crazy Mike Owen, Baritone-in-training, *Escape!*

Do you love your quartet members (a lot)? Is it fun to eat together, dress alike, sing constantly, be connected at the hip most of the time (bathrooms excluded) and continually strive for excellence while one of the guys has a Senior moment? If you can answer in the affirmative to most of these silly questions, then Quartet College at Harmony University is right for your quartet.

I won't bore you with all of the usual superlatives about the week. I'll just say that if you want coordinated and EXCELLENT coaching every day; if your quartet is serious about singing and performing at a higher level; then a week in St. Joe town is for you.

Escape!'s week was filled with hard work, rewarding 'Gold Medal' moments and enough smiles for a long time to come. We made many new acquaintances from across the country and around the world. It's always fun to answer the question from singers of around the globe, "Where's your quartet located and how far is it?" We shyly admit that we are only 40 miles from home and consider St. Joseph our 'backyard.' The fact that we truly are the closest group to home is humbling considering we were privileged to sing with gentlemen from the distances of Canada, Great Britain and Germany. Our heartfelt tip of the hat for the enthusiasm and commitment it takes from them to attend HU.

For the uninitiated, this diatribe will reveal the real reasons for the famous nightly 'ice cream social.' First, it's an excuse to get together and sing with some new folks. Second, it has historical reference value to arguably the most famous quartet lyrics ever sung. Third, no matter how fatigued or grumpy or homesick or throat-tired; you can't be unhappy eating ice cream. ♥



Escape! members Mike Owen (Bari), Harold Clark (Lead), Bill Bay (Bass) and Keith Owen (Tenor) performed a parody of "Just Give Me One More Chance" during the Friday night parade of quartets at Harmony University. From Mike Owen: "A little-known fact courtesy of those of us who live in Prison City, USA (Leavenworth). In the 'olden' days, the width of the black stripe that prisoners wore was indicative of the length of the sentence."



We'd Love To See Ya!

by Tony Strub, HOA President

2007 has been a very busy and exciting year for all of us in HOA. But guys, we are just getting warmed up. Take a look at our calendar for the rest of the year. It is full of opportunities to sing, perform, learn important vocal techniques and socialize with your friends. Our directors and coaches are doing a fabulous job of teaching in order to help us become better singers. Any Tuesday night 7:00 – 9:30, come and join us for the fun of singing barbershop.

I hope that we will see you at our *HOA* golf tournament on Sept. 10. In addition to playing golf on a great Falcon Lakes golf course, there will be prizes, good food, singing and fellowship. Come with your family and join us on Sept. 23 for our annual *HOA* picnic at Lake Quivira. Kansas City will host the CSD annual fall convention and competitions from Oct. 19-21. We have our Holiday Show on Dec. 1 and our Bell Ringing Caravan on Dec. 15. Wouldn't it be great if we could have you and one hundred others on the risers for our Holiday Show?

At our August board of directors meeting, the board made a commitment to contact all inactive members and let them know how valuable they are to our chapter and how much we would love to have them return to the risers and sing with us. *HOA* is going through a period of transition and change. Our future looks bright and full of opportunity. Come join us. We'd love to see ya! ♥

Congratulations, Blue Notes!



The collegiate quartet *Blue Notes*, from St. Louis, won the spring collegiate contest in Sioux Falls, SD with a 76.2 and placed 7th at Internationals in the collegiate competition. They are planning on singing at district contest in Kansas City. All four, including former *HOA* member **Brian Marston**, are members of the *Ambassadors of Harmony* and are all in the choirs under the direction of **Dr. Jim Henry** at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Pictured above (from left) tenor, **Anthony Eck**, lead, **Brian Marston**, bass, **Andrew Brunner**, and baritone, **Matt Suel-lentrop**. Photo courtesy of Brian Marston. ♥

Barbershopper of the Month!



Dan Henry Bowser

Above: *HOA* President **Tony Strub** presents **Dan Henry** with the June 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for your energy, your expertise and your willingness to take on the challenge of building the steam engine stage prop for Runnin' Wild used in the 2007 International contest in Denver, CO.. ♥



Vince Perry

Above: *HOA* President **Tony Strub** presents **Vince Perry** with the July, 2007 BOTM award, which reads:

In grateful appreciation for your work and dedication to seeing that every man who competed with the Heart of America Chorus at the 2007 International convention in Denver, CO was registered, housed and informed. ♥



Sponsor Spotlight

by Dick Korek, Marketing & P.R. Vice-President



Folks of all ages just plain enjoy the experience of Sheridan's Frozen Custard. These warm days have contributed to a lot of people enjoying their wonderful products. Thanks, Sheridan, for being a friend of HOA!



WOW! They finally broke out of the construction mess. Welcome, Frank Ancona Honda, to finally being able to be found by your customers. The 127th Street bridge over I-35 seemed to take a couple centuries to build, but that's

finished and we wish Frank Ancona Honda much success. Hey guys, give them a look when purchasing a car is on your mind! ♥

The Songs We Sing

compiled by Wade Dexter

Source: *A History of Popular Music in America*
by Sigmund Spaeth

I've had this book more than 50 years; it was copyrighted in 1948. I guess it was a gift from someone, but I read very little of it until recently when I began writing this column. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm quite sure that **Sigmund Spaeth** was a Barbershopper himself.

Anyway, in this book, which contains a review of what must be hundreds of popular songs and their composers and publishers, I found the following words on page 363:

Barbershop harmonizers may be surprised to hear that their piece de resistance, "I Had a Dream, Dear" (correctly titled, "You Tell Me Your Dream, Dear) was originally a waltz song dealing with innocent children, far from the he-man style of most modern interpreters. The words were by Seymour A. Rice and Al H. Brown, and the composer . . . was Charles N. Daniels, better known as Neil Moret. (See page 314.) The 1908 version showed many variants in both words and music, as compared with what is sung today by male quartets and convivial harmonizing groups. An entirely different set of lyrics was supplied later by Gus Kahn, the original writers losing their copyright by failing to renew it. The most popular modern arrangement of "You Tell Me Your Dream" brings in an additional chorus of patter and spelling effects ("m-i-n-e," "t-h-i-n-e," "b-e-s-t," "r-e-s-t," etc.), and a "tag" ending with elaborate chromatic progressions. (James A. Leyden deserves the chief credit for these embellishments.)

Remember, this book was written in the late 1940s. ♥

Heart of America Chorus

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Heart of America Chorus Calendar

- Sept. 8** Potluck Section Rehearsals, various locations
- Sept. 10** Chapter Golf Tournament, Falcon Lakes
- Sept. 22** Leavenworth Chapter Show
- Sept. 23** HOA Annual Picnic, Lake Quivara
- Sept. 24** K.C. Sweet Adeline Chorus Sendoff, Sheraton Hotel, Overland Park
- Sept. 29** HOA COACHING SESSION, ST. PETER'S, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- Oct. 4** HOA Extra rehearsal
- Oct. 13** Olathe Chili Supper
- Oct. 19-21** CSD Fall Convention, Kansas City



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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