



Fanfare

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

From the Prez.

Fellows, we absolutely need to get out there to recruit new members to this great hobby of barbershopping. After the experience our competition at the Ontario District Fall Convention in Brantford brought us, why should we even consider leaving out any potential members from enjoying such comraderie and fun.

Saturday October 15th turned out to be a great day for all of us who competed at the Sanderson Center. For those of us who travelled by bus, we were greeted at 9:30 AM. by our very congenial driver (and chorus member) Doug Langs, who whisked us away down the 400 series highways from Strathroy to Brantford. We were able to get priority parking in the handicapped spot (Bob Howlett was in our group) in front of the school where we were to practice. In we went and started warming our vocal chords then getting into our uniforms, makeup, etc. The highlights of this session were Ros McPherson's tremendous warmup technique, and the statement Jim McDougall made "Remember, guys, we're here to entertain"!

Then, off to the Sanderson Center we went. We were lucky enough to sing in the 2nd place so that we could enjoy watching most of the remaining choruses in the competition. What great entertainment!

When the performances ended, our bus group decided to find some sustenance and ended up at the Keg. Not only was the food excellent but we had the great fortune of entertaining a young family with barbershop harmony ... certainly the highlight of our visit to the Keg.

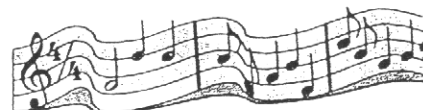
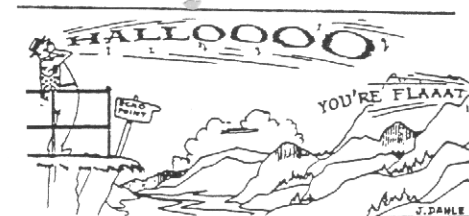
At 7:30 PM. we were all back in our seats at the Sanderson Center for the evening show. The program was spectacular, as expected and especially the performance put on by "Northern Lights". What a group!

Our bus group all left the building with smiles of enjoyment on our faces to head back to Strathroy. Lots of conversation and laughter made the return trip as much fun as the rest of the dayand, oh, just to pat ourselves on the back, the Strathroy Vocal Federation brought home not just one but two trophies, The Chorus Encouragement Award and The Chorus Plateau Awardway to go, guys!

So remember, we can't let any potential members miss out on such a great pastime! Go get'em.

sincerely, Frank

Next Fanfare Deadline : November 30





I want to tell you what a thrill it was to see my little boy, Mark, singing with the fantastic quartet, Misnomer, at the international Convention in Salt Lake City. I knew they were good, but I was still worried that the pressure of the competition would throw them off. I was a little worried that a bad experience would discourage them from trying again. There had been little time for practice and not much experience in performing or especially competing. The potential for a blow-out was there in my mind.

They were announced, the tension grew. They blasted out on stage and took complete control of the audience. They sang like gangbusters, right on tune and with incredible energy and intensity. I was a little disappointed in myself to think that I had any doubts at all.

We didn't see much of them for the week, since they were so busy singing and enjoying the barbershop camaraderie and hospitality. When we did see them, they were full of enthusiastic tales of their exploits and conquests.

When I asked Mark a few weeks after, what the highlight of the convention was for him, he never hesitated. He said, "Dad, it was stepping out on that stage and competing." I think it was for me too.

John Gough



It was a great fall convention from start to finish. I thought we did a fabulous performance of our two contest numbers. I had one main goal in mind for our chorus, and that was singing in tune. The first words out of the mouth of the singing judge were that, in general, we sang in tune. That was real positive reinforcement for me. Of course, we have plenty of places to improve, so we have lots of fun to have yet.

We noticed that some of the choruses had the whole chorus there, to hear the judge's comments. Maybe next time we could have more chorus members attend.

Thanks to all who helped in front of the chorus. You know who you are. Thanks also to all who helped in administration and logistics to get everyone and everything there. It makes being a director a lot less stressful when you only have to think about the performance. I have to mention the great warm-up we had with Ros. He is such a talented man to organize and deliver that very important part of the music on contest day. It was far better than I hoped for and it sure showed in our performance.

I was really happy to be able to have so many Strathroy members stay to see the whole show. I know we all picked up ideas on how we can improve our performances as individuals and as a singing ensemble. Let's do it again!

John Gough

Plan to attend COTS, 2006 *

Getting the most out of rehearsals

By Dr. Rene Torres

IT IS CERTAINLY NO SECRET THAT TO BE GOOD AT ANYTHING, YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE. It is also no secret that the more you practice, the better you should get. However, to get the most benefit from rehearsals, YOU need a plan. While the director has a plan and a responsibility to steer the chorus towards a set of predetermined objectives, the individual singer has a responsibility too. Just arriving at the rehearsal and striving to do what the director says is not enough. Sure, it will help you get better, but are you really getting the most out of the experience? Are you personally absorbing as much as you can from each session? Do you leave the rehearsal feeling that you are better than when you started? What does it take to glean the maximum benefit from each rehearsal?

While it is true that the best way to learn something and do it well is to practice, it is also true that preparing to sing is just as important. Being prepared to sing means that your voice is thoroughly warmed-up before you arrive at the rehearsal site.

Let's say that your rehearsals are three hours long once a week. That is two percent of your life! Little time indeed to spend on such a demanding hobby if you want to be your best. Your director already has plans for that 2%, and there simply isn't enough rehearsal time available for long warm-ups. You have to be ready beforehand.

Remember also that preparing the voice box and related vocal apartments is not enough. Mental preparation is just as important. You should come to rehearsal with the following 12 affirmations in mind as a minimum:

- * I will prepare myself to the best of my ability to make the most out of the rehearsal.
- * I will be mentally and physically willing and able to give my all throughout the entire rehearsal.
- * I will not let anyone in the chorus outdo me as to concentration, attention and demeanor.
- * I will always keep in mind that a chorus is an entity unto its own, and I am prepared to subordinate myself to the common good.
- * I will consider my individual performance on the risers as the most important contribution to the chorus over which I have control, therefore worthy of my undivided effort.
- * I will not subordinate singing to the exercise of the proper moves, but neither will I subordinate the moves to the singing.
- * I will believe that face is the most important part of my body to convey the song to an audience, and it will be animated and appropriate all the time.
- * I will strive to understand every instruction the director is conveying, and to execute it properly the first time and forever thereafter.
- * I will be helpful to those who are not learning as fast as I am, but only during the breaks.
- * I will remain focused at all times, as only in that manner can obtain the most out of the experience.
- * I will recapitulate upon completion of the rehearsal what have learned and consider it just a starting point from which to get better at the next rehearsal.
- * I will recognize that two percent of my life is not enough to devote to this hobby if I really want to be the best, and will use every other opportunity to further my knowledge and focus.

Overall, the emphasis needs to be on focus of the mind, body and spirit. Only when every member of the chorus commits to this philosophy will improvement come rapidly and successfully. Consider this. If you are going to devote some of your valuable free time to singing, there is really no excuse for not giving it your all, is there? ♦

Reprinted from His Masters Voice

Harold's Angels

After a wonderful summer and fall here we are planning for Christmas and the New Year. First on the agenda is Vocal Federation's 10th Anniversary celebration and the Christmas party. As the New Year approaches be looking for a call from Sylvia, Mary Vair or Jean Nisbet as they work on a slate of officers. Don't be shy, if you are interested be sure to let them know. Fund raising ideas are also being sought after.

Dates to mark on your calendar -

Cheese - next order - Middle of Novemeber, in time for Christmas entertaining

Anniversary Celebration & Christmas Party

On Dec. 10th we will celebrate Vocal Federations 10th Anniversary at the Christmas Party. The party will be held at the Presbyterian Church.

Next Meeting – Novemebr 16th at Sylvia's
Everyone is welcome.

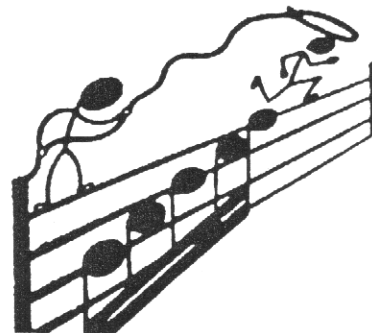
Sound advice

by Al Capp

1. Know the words and notes so well that you concentrate on other techniques, craft, and stage presence.
2. Maintain correct volume control of your voice as indicated in the interpretation plan.
3. The higher you sing, the SOFTER you sing.
4. The lower you sing, the LOUDER you sing.
5. The lower you sing, the BRIGHTER you sing.
6. The higher you sing, the more COVERED you sing.

If you've thought, "Leave all that technical stuff to the director to figure out," then you've taken the first step to mediocrity. Take the pledge. Follow the six rules. Don't accept a mediocre performance. Make each rehearsal a little better than the last one. IT WORKS!

(from *The Apple Chord* via *Echoes from the Mountaineers*, Ben Haught, editor)



Be A Singer Bringer

Take time for 10 things, plus one.

1. Take time to Work - it is the price of success.
2. Take time to Think - it is the source of power.
3. Take time to Play - it is the secret of youth.
4. Take time to Read - it is the foundation of knowledge.
5. Take time to Worship - it is the highway of reverence and washes the dust from our eyes.
6. Take time to Help and Enjoy Friends - it is the source of happiness.
7. Take time to Love - it is the one sacrament of life.
8. Take time to Dream - it hitches the soul to the stars.
9. Take time to Laugh - it will lighten life's loads.
10. Take time to Plan - it is the secret of being able to have time for the first nine things.
11. Lastly, take time to Sing - if you haven't time to sing forget all this, it's time to change your life.

Chapter Birthdays

November 2 - Dianne Caradine
 November 18 - Jean Nisbet
 November 19 - Craig Bycraft
 November 11 - Larry Driessens
 November 25 - Bob Howlett
 November 27 - Gail Wiersema

December 2 - Deb Boekhoven
 December 12 - Doug Langs
 December 13 - Patti Bycraft
 December 16 - Eileen McEwen
 December 26 - Arnold Dixon

Chapter Anniversaries

November 2 - Craig and Patt Bycraft
 December 18 - Gord and Jean Nisbet
 December 25 - Les and Donna Campbell
 December 28 - Tom and Elaine Linden
 December 31 - Ron and Dianne Carradine



"There is nothing so annoying as arguing with a person who knows what he's talking about".
 Voice of Health.

MUSIC IS:

- Music is a higher revelation than philosophy -
Ludwig von Beethoven
- People who make music together cannot be enemies, at least not while the music lasts.
Paul Hindesmith
- God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing.
Robindranath Tagore
- Learning music by reading about it is like making love by mail.
Luciano Pavarotti
- Ecstasy is a thing that will not go into words. It just feels like music.
Mark Twain

The Songs We Sing Let Me Call You Sweetheart

1910

Words by Beth Slater Whitson (1879-1930)
 Music by Leo Friedman (1869-1927)

Illinois and Tennessee met happily in the persons of Leo Friedman and Beth Slater Whitson when they composed *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. This may very well be the all time champion community singing favorite. Merely singing the opening line of the chorus is a sure-fire way to start a group of singers harmonizing. Barbershop singers love it, too, and the melody suggests plenty of those harmonizing opportunities so loved by woodshedders. Is there anyone in the audience who hasn't sung this song? Very likely not.

From *The Heritage of Harmony Songbook*

Bert Szabo, Editor

To All the Members of The Vocal Federation- I would like to give a great big "Thank You" to all you fellas (and your significant others), for all the good wishes and concerns regarding my health. I am doing really well and am back to work, but not in the same capacity that I was before my surgery. Like McGuinty said, my boss has created a job to "keep the older Nurses" in the work force, so I work 1-2 days per week. I am participating in a Cardiac Rehab Program and walking 3 miles a day, so I'm better than I have been in a long time. So girls, if you think you have indigestion that won't go away, see your doctor - the signs and symptoms of cardiac problems for females are quite different from the men. Thanks again for all your thoughts and good wishes, Barb Howlett

Editor's Remarks

By Gil Craanen
Fanfare Editor



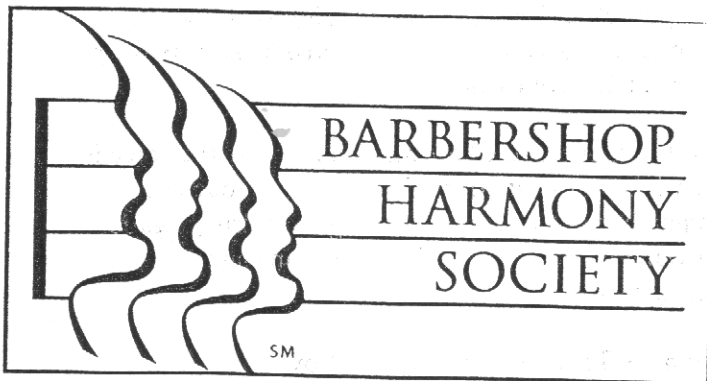
Got a Minute ?

Take a minute (or two) in the next month and write an article for the "Fanfare". Get something of your chest, tell of your summer vacation or write of a Barbershop moment. ■



JOHN MARRS

HE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO TILL OUR REGULAR TENOR COMES BACK



A Barbershoppers Promise

by Art DesRosiers

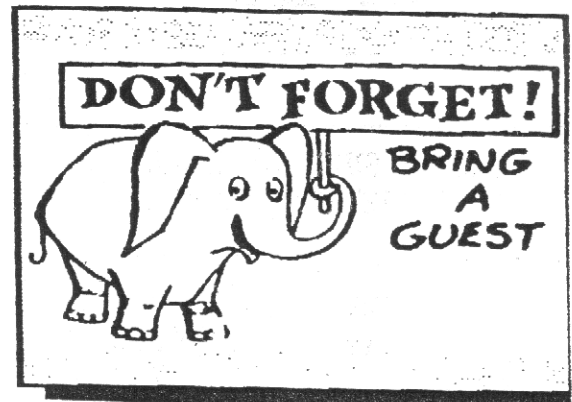
Promise yourself ...

- that nothing can disturb your harmony.
- to sing happiness and joy to everyone you meet.
- to make all Barbershoppers feel that there is something in them.
- to pay total attention to your director so that the chords will ring out.
- to look at the sunny side of everything and make your melody come through.
- to sing only your best, to work only for the best, and expect only the best.
- to be just as enthusiastic about the singing of others as you are about your own.
- to forget the bad notes of the past and to sing on to the greater achievements of the future.
- to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and to give every person you meet a smile.
- to give so much time to the improvement of your singing that you have no time to criticize others.
- to be so happy to be a Barbershopper that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

(from *Overtones*, Alvin W. Ries, editor)

Every composer's music reflects in its subject matter and in its style the source of the money the composer is living on while writing the music.

Virgil Thomson, *The State of Music*, 1939



STRATHROY CHAPTER--2006 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY



THE VOCAL FEDERATION



REMEMBER THIS RULE FOR BETTER SINGING:

- SING THE SAME THING
- THE SAME TIME
- THE SAME WAY
- IN TUNE
- IN BALANCE



Singers take note

Singers should avoid peanuts, chips and other salty snacks, says a Texas ear, nose and throat specialist. They leave small particles in the throat that can scratch and irritate it, explains Dr. Richard Holt, University of Texas in San Antonio, where a three-year study of 94 young professional singers was conducted.

In a report in The Medical Post, Holt says cigarette smoke is also an irritant encountered by singers who work in nightclubs and bars.

Holt says one of the best ways to preserve the voice is to drink cool - but not cold water with a touch of lemon juice. He encourages singers to drink a gallon of water a day when they're performing and rehearsing.

from the Toronto Star Saturday, Nov. 23/96

Strathroy Chapter
Western Division-Ontario District-Barbershop Harmony Society
Home of the "Vocal Federation",
The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

Meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in
Strathroy - Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm

Board of Directors

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Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Vision Statement

The Strathroy Chapter will provide the opportunity for men of all ages to blend their voices in the unique style of barbershop harmony singing and will provide wholesome musical entertainment to people of all ages throughout this and neighbouring communities wherever our services may be desired.

Mission Statement

- To Realize our vision, the Strathroy Chapter will:
- provide the means for men to participate in and enjoy the singing of barbershop-style harmony, both in chorus and quartet singing.
- Provide for its membership an organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by "ear singing".
- Develop members vocal talents and performance abilities so that each time they sing together, they perform at the best level possible.
- Provide an atmosphere and programs which result in a high level of camaraderie and social benefit to members.
- Be a community leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music in our schools and our communities by singing barbershop music for schools, churches and social events.
- Enrich the lives of the less fortunate people in our communities by singing barbershop music for senior citizen homes, nursing homes and hospitals.
- Initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, especially those projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charities.

Music Team

Music V.P. - Arnold Dixon
 Chorus Director - John Gough
 Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
 Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

Tenor - Ernie McEwen
 Lead - Bob Howlett
 Baritone - John Gough
 Bass - Jim McDougall

WEB SITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation
www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/

Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow

www.ahsow.or

*Remember to share your Fanfare with all of
 your family, friends and neighbours.
 Share the joy of singing.*



The Federation's

Fanfare

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Fanfare is published on eight occasions annually by the Strathroy Chapter. Contributions are invited and will be acknowledged. The Editor may edit all for clarity, content or to fit the space. All stories are written by the Editor, except those carrying another byline, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chapter, its officers or members.

The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society

P . R . O . B . E .

The Fraternity of
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS.