



Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders and beyond"

Comedy is theme of Chapter's April 1, 2006 Shows

The chapter is busy preparing for the April 1 Matinee (2:00 pm) and evening (7:30 pm) shows. The show committee, under the direction of Show Committee Chairman Orval Allen, has things well underway.

"Spring Fever" is the headline for this year's shows and includes former Ontario champion quartet "Bob's Yer Uncle". This high energy and talented singing foursome with a flair for comedy will be sure to create plenty of laughter. Add to that the great humour that magician and ventriloquist "Gord Vair" and his "zany friends" bring to the stage and some sore sides from laughter is guaranteed.

The show will also feature local barbershop quartet "Rural Roots" and special guest soloist "Laureen Grant". The "Vocal Federation", Strathroy's barbershop harmony chorus, will round-out this sensational family entertainment package.

The very humorous "Doran McTaggart" will be master of ceremonies again this year. Ray Pierce will provide the lighting and sound equipment and we are hopeful that Harold's Angels will provide meals similar to the past.

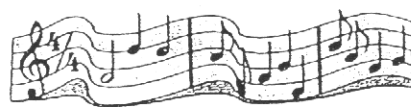
Act 1 will include songs by the Vocal Federation such as: "Zip-A-Dec Doo-Dah", "Can't Help Falling In Love", "Girls Medley", "Hello Mary Lou".

"Rural Roots" quartet performance: Three songs: "Lucky Day", "Smile" and "Never See Maggie Alone". Followed by "Vocal Federation" singing: "Coney Island Baby/We All Fall Medley", "You Were Only Fooling", "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World", "There Never Was A Gang Like Mine". "Rural Root" quartet with Laureen Grant, soloist, performance of "Lida Rose".

Act 2 will include "Bob's Yer Uncle" quartet performance, followed by the "Vocal Federation"'s "I Love That Old Barbershop Style", "Sweet Hour Of Prayer", "I Believe", "Over The Rainbow", "I'll Fly Away", "We Sing That They Shall Speak", "Keep The Whole World Singing".

In among all of this, will be lots of humour from Ventriloquist Gord Vair and M.C. Doran McTaggart. This year's show "Spring Fever", promises some great comedy, with some of the favorite songs of the Strathroy Vocal Federation. So, don't miss it. Last year's shows were a "sell out" and "great value for the money", so remember you heard it from the editor of the Fanfare "Get your tickets early".

Next Fanfare Deadline: April 15



ANNUAL SHOW COMMITTEE UPDATE

RETREAT:

Saturday, March 11, 2006 at Strathroy Community Christian School [SCCS].

Arrive by 9:15 a.m. to get rehearsal started @ 9:30 a.m.

Harold's Angels ladies will provide lunch. Cost is \$5.00 p.p.

Please wear your black golf shirt.

COSTUMES FOR SHOW – APRIL 1, 2006 @ SCCS:

Act I/First Half:

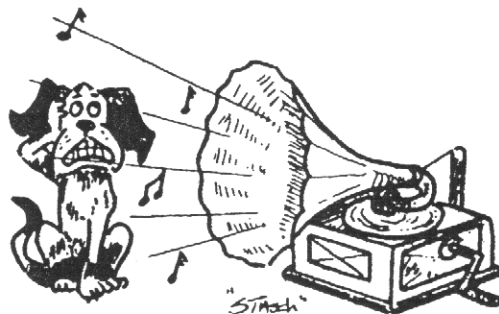
"Smart Casual", i.e. the beige pants you now have as part of the Chapter uniform, a colorful [not gaudy] collared spring casual shirt [your choice of short or long sleeves] and appropriate color casual shoes to match/enhance your appearance [not sneakers/sandals or the like]. No headgear. Please try to avoid a solid colored black or white shirt.

Act II/Second Half:

"Formal Tuxedo" i.e., black tuxedo jacket and pants, white tuxedo style shirt with black studs, red bow tie and red cummerbund, black stockings and black patent leather shoes.

SALES INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

Decided to cancel this program. Why? Consensus that it really had no bearing on the effort members put into selling program ads or show tickets. Eliminates considerable unproductive bookkeeping.



Missed that key change again!

C.O.T.S. 2006

We begin our trip to Geneva Park, with Leigh Laughton taking all 7 of us in his motor home. The road was good and the sun was shining. We arrived at Geneva Park mid afternoon. Geneva Park is a Y.M.C.A. retreat facility, beside Lake Couchiching. We registered and found our room, My room mate was Stuart Gardiner from Cornwall. He was the only one from that chapter. After introductions we went to Bob's room and did some tag singing with a number of fellows from different chapters. 6:30 was supper time. There was a very good variety of food and they had set up four lines to serve all 230 of us. The first general session was from 7 to 9. At 9 we began our first two, one hour classes for the weekend. Stuart Gardiner, Bob Howlet and I took the Director of the Future Class, that was lead by Dr. Paul Tamblyn and Bob Pyper. They took turns presenting the program. When one was demonstrating, the other one was going among the fourteen participants assisting them to do the demonstrations correctly. 11:15 was snack time. Some of us went to bed at midnight, others stayed up much longer. 7:00 AM breakfast, 8:30 to 10:20 next two classes. 12 o'clock lunch. 1-3, classes 5 & 6. 3:00 PM was another general session. Class 7 was from 4:10 till 5:00 followed by another delicious meal. 7 PM we were bussed to the Orillia Opera House for the evening show. The show was worth the price of the weekend. The program included the North Metro Sweet Adelines, The Mega City Toronto Chorus, plus several quartets. 11 PM was snack time. Sunday 8 AM was a light breakfast. 9 till 10 was class 8 and then final General Session, followed by the best brunch on the planet. Once again, the trip home was very good with Leigh driving

Roswell

C.O.T.S. JANUARY 2006

We left my place at about 10 AM on Friday January 6th. We stopped to pick up Bob Howlett at the Ingersoll clover leaf and went on to Highway 24 South for lunch. We left at about 1:20 and headed for Orillia. We arrived in good time, went in and registered for our rooms. Everyone got checked in and had a refreshment or two. Jim lead us in a practice for the song we were to sing. We went to the opening ceremonies, had supper and then started classes. I took the Joe Barbershop Class. It was very interesting and I learned quite a bit. Saturday started early with 7:30 breakfast, then classes, then lunch and more classes. We then went to the main hall where we were explained about the evening show. We had supper and after that we were bussed to the Orillia Opera House. The show was worth the price of the whole weekend. I really enjoyed it and so did everyone else. Then back to the park where we got entertained in the hall by several quartets. After that we went on a tour and then home and to bed. Sunday, breakfast at 8:00, then to the main hall for closing and reports from H4S, very interesting. Back to the main hall for lunch, say goodbyes and traveled home.

Leigh

CELEBRATIONS

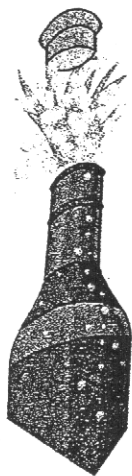


Chapter Birthdays

- March 16 – Joanne Vanderheyden
- March 22 – Francien Mason
- March 23 – Fran galbraith
- March 28 – Henry Wiersema
- April 3 – Orval Allen
- April 9 – Audrey Gough
- April 12 – Barb Howlett
- April 22 – Mary Robertson
- April 27 – Phyllis Laughton

Chapter Anniversaries

- March 28 – Bill and Audrey Gough
- April 6 -- Bill and Mary Robertson
- April 8 – Walter and Lydia DeRuiter
- April 17 – Jim and Sylvia McDougall
- April 20 – Raymond and Maxine Mason



Protection from Colds?

from Associated Press- Chicago

Not only is variety the spice of life, it could protect you from the common cold.

People involved in a variety of activities such as work, church, family soccer and **barbershop quartets** get fewer colds than those who are exposed to the same number of people but have only a few things to occupy them, according to a study.

The findings, published in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, bolster the notion that mental well-being affects physical health.

To Barbara Knox, from all of us.

Wishing you a speedy recovery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Don't be lying down on the job, get out and get those new members.

On the Contest stage

Lifted from The Trillium, Waldo Redekop, Editor

- * Entertain the audience the best you can in good taste.
- * Use quality material that your group can sing well.
- * Focus on singing that is high quality and in tune.
- * Make your presentation interesting, enjoyable and entertaining.
- * Convey the message of the song effectively.
- * Be aware of your audience, have fun and throw away the stop watch.
- * Don't forget about the rules of eligibility (participants must be members of the Society; choruses must have at least 12 men on stage, including the director).

Gord's contribution

I will lift an article from the latest Harmoniser.

This is from page 2 from a former president of the society, Phil Embury.

"You will cherish the good times and remarkable friendships that spring up among us.

A man is happy when he sings. Barbershop Harmony animates his best instincts and gives him a feeling of well-being. It is good for his soul. You will be forever glad of the part you are taking in this singular source of relaxation and service."

What we do as a group has a multidimensional effect on our lives- emotionally, socially, personal health benefits, an opportunity to serve others and a very great benefit to our ability to use those old brain cells.

We owe a debt to those individuals who had the foresight and ambition to start the Strathroy Vocal Federation and give us the opportunity to reap the aforementioned benefits.

Gord Vair

A WIFE NOTES

He came home from work exhausted,
and could hardly drag his feet.
He managed to get to the table
but was too far gone to eat

He finally moved to his easy chair
with the paper he planned to read
It was too heavy, as was his head
so I said "Dear, sleep's what you need"

His eyes went closed for a moment,
then opened "what night is this?"
Good grief, "I gotta get going"
he said goodbye with a kiss

I was watching the late evening news
when I heard his key in the door.
The voice that hummed a familiar tune
just wasn't the same as before

The fatigue had somehow disappeared
the frown on his face was gone
He shared with me his experience
of good fellowship in song.

The hours he spends with the chorus
add fun and joy to his life.
So - I'm not a barbershop widow
I'm a Barbershopper's wife"

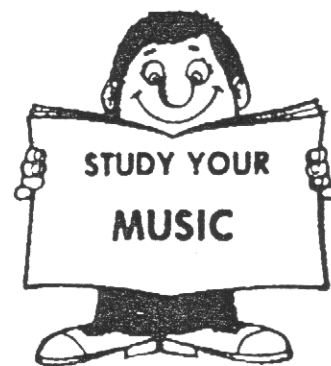
A poem by Shirley Hall extracted from the Nov/Dec 1977 issue of the Harmonizer's "I see From The Bulletins" by Leo Fobart

CHANGE

If you always think what you've always thought,
Then you will always feel what you've always felt,
Then you will always do what you've always done.

If you always do what you've always done,
Then you will always get what you've always gotten.

If you always get what you've always gotten,
Then you will always think what you've always thought.



COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday Feb. 14, Singing Valentines
- Wednesday Feb. 15, Chapter's Novice Quartet Contest
- Saturday Feb. 25, Western Division Novice Competition, Sarnia
- Saturday March 4, Performance, London District Christian Secondary School
- Saturday March 11, Annual Chapter Retreat, S.C.C.S.
- Saturday April 1, Chapter Annual Shows S.C.C.S.
- April 21 - 23 Ontario District Spring Convent., Scarborough
- June 2 - 4 Harmony College North University of Guelph
- Wed. Aug. 16 Contest Double Horseshoe
- Sat. Sept. 23 Family Golf Day
- Oct. 20 - 22 Ontario District Fall Convention, Brantford
- Sat. Nov. 25 Santa Clause Parade
- Sun. Nov. 26 Western Division Annual Christmas Conc., Seaforth

Craft

Eight reasons why you'll go flat

by Merle Clayton

- **Shallow Breaths** (collar breathers and shoulder heavers). The music will sag at the end of each phrase or in the middle. Breathe from the gut.
- **Low Breath Supply.** The usual cause is failure to breathe properly, particularly when there are long holds or retarded phrase endings.
- **Wrong Intervals.** In ascending passages, the steps taken are too small. In descending passages, the steps are too large, resulting in overshooting.
- **Relaxing Support.** Soft passages are no excuse for failing to keep the diaphragm firm.
- **Parts Not Learned.** Leaners and crows that are a split second behind and not anticipating pitch.
- **Scooping.** Do not attack the note from below. You won't make it.
- **Large Drop in the Interval.** Overshooting frequently occurs. Also, major thirds should be sung on the high side.
- **Not Listening.** Seek a unit section sound and all sections should tune to the melody.

(from *The Pitch*, Paul Krull, editor)



Twelve step learning program

This was originally presented to us by Stella Kelly, our previous Musical Director.

This is a 12-step program to assist you in learning your music. It is only a suggestion until you learn the system that works best for you.

The success of this program is contingent upon the effective listening skills of the learner ... much more than upon the musical background or ability to read music.

Any of the 12 steps may be repeated before continuing on to the next step. But, remember EACH step is important to the overall successful results of learning ALL the right notes, words and timing of the new song.

DO NOT eliminate any of the steps because they may appear to be insignificant to you.

Here we go

1. Listen to the music on the tape while you close your eyes. This will familiarize you with the notes, timing and general flavour of the song.
2. Watch the **notes** on your music while you listen to the tape. DO NOT SING YET!
3. Repeat number two. DO NOT SING YET!
4. Watch the **words** on your music while you listen to the tape. Please, no singing yet!
5. On a separate piece of paper write down all the lyrics to the new song. Now watch your paper while you listen to the tape. Still no singing.
6. Watch the notes again while you are listening to the tape. Remember, no singing yet!
7. Watch the words on your music while you listen to the tape. Be careful not a sound!
8. Try to write down all the words again on a separate piece of paper without looking at your printed music. If you have trouble, listen to the tape again. Watch the words and then try writing it again without looking. Stay on this step until you have all the right words without looking back at the music or listening to the tape.
9. Hurray! Finally you can add YOUR voice! Now watch the notes on your music while you hum along with the tape. Singing is next.
10. Watch the words on your music while you sing along with the tape. Can you believe this? You are actually going to sing this song for the first time!

However, if you have any difficulty, circle the spot on your music as you go all the way through. Then go back and listen (don't sing) to these parts again. Happy singing!
11. Put a practice tape of your own in the recorder. Now, on your own tape, SING the new part all the way through without looking at your music. Bet you could hardly wait to hear this step!
12. **Very important step** .. you are about to graduate! Watch your music and listen to your own tape and see if you are correct. Concentrate on listening to the parts you had circled earlier to make sure you are correct.

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

Meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets
in Strathroy-Wednesday Evenings at 8.00 pm

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
District Delegate	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519) 246-1234
Treasurer	Less Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Music V.P.	Roswell McPherson	(519) 245-1711
Communications V.P.	Gil Craenen	(519) 245-2888
Program V.P.	Bill Robertson	(519) 245-0979
Performance V.P.	Raymond Mason	(519) 264-1850
Marketing & P.R. V.P.	Henry Wiersema	(519) 289-5562
Board Mem. At Large	Larry Driessens	(519) 245-2851
Board Mem. At Large	Leigh Laughton	(519) 264-1454

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Bill Robertson
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Bill Robertson
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Gil Craenen
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team Section Leaders

Music V.P. - Roswell McPherson	Tenor - Ernie McEwen
Chorus Director - John Gough	Lead - Bob Howlett
Chorus Director - Jim McDougall	Baritone - John Gough
Librarian - Dan Schieman	Bass - Jim McDougall

WEBSITES

- 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.

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 and organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by "ear-singing"
- Develop members' vocal talent 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

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 by-line, 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 .

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS
 THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FRATERNITY IN THE SOCIETY