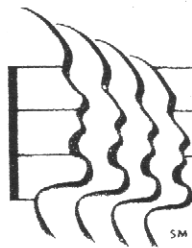


July 2007  
Issue 12-04

# Fanfare

Strathroy, Ontario Chapter  
Established 1995  
Member of Ontario District



BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



"Home of the Vocal Federation Chorus"

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

*We have had a busy time  
and enjoyed every bit of it!*

*Wow, May and June are behind us  
and the next two month seem just  
right to enjoy time on the golf course,  
visiting your children or just simply take  
it easy.*

*Looking back, we sang at Brookside  
Retirement Home, at Sprucedale Care  
Centre, at the Day For The Arts, sold  
hotdogs and sausages outside at the  
Super Store, performed at the Lions  
Turkey Fest and.....last but not  
least.....we had our "SEND  
THEM TO DENVER" fund raising  
evening to send "Gin & Tonics" on  
their way to Denver.*

*What an event! What a surprise!  
Outside of selling tickets, we knew very  
little and my guess was as good as  
yours.*

*When we arrived, it was all there.  
The guests, the beautifully set tables, the  
performing quartets, Gin & Tonics,  
Cymmetry, and Rural Roots, and our  
Chorus, The Vocal Federation. and  
above all, a great meal, served by, as  
always, our Harold's Angels.*

*We all had a great time and owe a big  
THANK YOU to Jim & Silvia McDougall,  
Henry & Gail Wiersema, Ray Mason and  
Harold's Angels.*

*Gil Craenen*

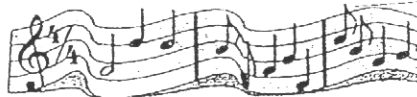


*"Gin & Tonics"*



*"Cymmetry"*

Next Fanfare Deadline: Aug. 15



## Harmony College North 2007

Orval was at my door at 4:00 pm and ready to head to Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. This is going to be my first experience to go to a music school and I don't have to teach, wow!!

After my misreading of the map and a poor cartographic job by the committee we arrived around 6:00pm. After registration Orval and I found a libation station and had a "cool one" with supper.

At 8:00pm we headed over to Bricker Hall and participated in some warm-up exercises before we sang "The Old Song" and a number of "tags." We learned a little bit about "who's who" in "barbershopping" and watched videos of "The Vocal Majority" and "Westminster Chorus" and an older clip of the "Nighthawks". Absolutely fabulous!

At around 10:00pm everyone headed back to the dorm and participated in or listened to quartet singing before heading to bed.

An excellent breakfast at 7:00am got everyone off to a good start for a full day. Off to Bricker Hall for a general session at 8:30am. James Estes from Kenosha led us in the most amazing warm up exercises I have ever been involved in. Don Bazely suggested to me that we get something like this on a video and show it at the start of every practice). After the formalities of greetings from "Chuck" and the introduction of the faculty of Harmony College North, Barry Towers led us in a polecat, "Sweet and Lovely."

James Estes (permanent staff for the society) gave a power point presentation of the new facilities in Nashville (site of next year's international convention). The newly renovated building is located right downtown in Nashville, around the corner of the Rhyman Auditorium and two blocks from the "Country Music Hall of Fame". It appears to be a great facility and will be enjoyed by many "barbershoppers" during the coming years. Following this presentation, James taught us a new song "I Don't Mind Being All Alone (when I'm all alone with you)". Excellent job!!

At 10:00am I went to my first workshop, "Singing Techniques That Work." James Estes led this workshop and emphasized something that John reminds me and the rest of us of all the time at practices..... **The Breath**. James explained which all good "barbershoppers" know that **breath** is the foundation of good singing. James went into a lot of detail about the function of the "vocal folds" and how they control what comes out of your mouth depending on what you do with your diaphragm. Good stuff! I won't bore you with all the details but what I enjoyed was that he had a

real knack for demonstrating the right way and the wrong way (I could really relate to the wrong way). In the end James reinforced everything John tells us all the time about breathing and diction. This workshop ended at 12:50pm.

Lunch and a break were enjoyed after a long profitable morning.

The afternoon workshop was on "Vocal Analysis" and led by James Estes. James gave a presentation on how to size up new members. This session was very technical dealing with voice range and how each group plays its own part in harmony singing. He went into detail on each part: Leads are the storytellers, Basses aim to be melodic in their delivery, Baritones are the smart version of the leads and Tenors add the "sparkle" the desert after the entrée. Considerable time was spent on "falsetto" and "head voice". This session was a definite learning experience and at times somewhat boring. The highlight of this class was a video clip of Tim Wauch (he makes all the learning tapes for the society and has a range of five octaves, he even does tapes for the Sweet Adeline's) singing in his quartet, amazing!!

Dinner was at 5:45pm, with the evening show at 7:30pm. Orval and I were looking for a libation station again without success.

The "Parade of Harmony" show was excellent with the highlight for me being the "Sweet Adeline's" from Guelph with some great singing and stage presentation. I also had the opportunity to hear for the first time a female barbershop quartet. The featured quartet for the night was "Mirage" and they did an outstanding job!

The experience of attending Harmony College North was great, and I would recommend it to any member of our federation. I would also like to thank the federation for giving me the opportunity to go.

Henry Wiersema.



**Strathroy Chapter member Blake Hughes receiving congratulations and his well deserved "Ontario District Artistic Show Program Award" from President Frank Knoll and Show Chairman Orval Allen. Blake earned his reward for last year's show "Spring Fever" Wait till the selection committee sees the program for this year's "Happy Trails".**

## "George Shields"

**This retired businessman is anything but idle. Read how the most rewarding work of all can be accomplished during the second half of life.**

**'We sing that they shall speak'**



Article By: Cynthia Ross Cravit

A small brass figurine entitled "The Singing Miracle Man" was created for retired businessman and barbershopper extraordinaire George Shields for his longstanding support of the Speech Foundation of Ontario.

And it is a fitting tribute indeed. Not only has George raised over \$4 million dollars to treat communication disorders in Ontario through his brainchild, the Harmonize for Speech Fund, but he also led efforts to transform an old home in Toronto into the Speech Foundation, Toronto's Children's Centre.

And it all began with a shared love of music.

"Barbershoppers tore the house apart and put it back together again," George says, evoking memories of the barbershop singing society donning hard hats as they worked to create the foundation's first treatment centre on Grenville Street.

And the efforts didn't stop there. The Harmonize for Speech Fund continues to provide funding for numerous speech-related programs and equipment at hospitals, clinics and treatment centres throughout Ontario, including aphasia centres which help stroke survivors regain communication skills. The fund also provides text books, bursaries and scholarships for speech pathology/audiology students.

"Singing is great therapy," George says, and it is evident that the rewards of his music reach far beyond his personal enjoyment of singing.

### **"We sing that they shall speak"**

The former Chairman of Elliot Research, a marketing research company, also served in the military where he attained the rank of Company Sergeant Major. A graduate from the University of Toronto, George went on to become a member of The Order of Canada and the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, the Commemorative medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and many other awards and citations.

But through it all, music has remained his great love. "I've been singing since I can remember," George says, adding that as a boy he sang in the church choir where his father was choir director.

It was his passion for singing that drove him to put together the East York Barbershoppers' concert tour of the British Isles in 1964 – which resulted in the establishment of the first barbershop chorus in England. Since then barbershop harmony has spread to many countries outside North America, including Japan, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Brazil, Italy, and Israel.

Back at home, George was the driving force for the construction of Harmony Hall, East York Chorus' rehearsal facility which is also the home of the Harmony Hall Centre for Seniors. His efforts also led to the creation of a recreation facility for barbershoppers and their families called Harmony Ranch, which serves as the summer vacation home for more than a hundred Ontario barbershop families.

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And for George, singing is very much a family affair – his two sons and his son-in-law sing with him. His wife, Gail, also joins him in a mixed barbershop quartet "Family Ties" that performs throughout the year to raise money for charity.

While George laughingly says that his seemingly boundless energy derives from "singing – it helps to keep you young", he and his fellow barbershoppers sing for a purpose. Chapter meetings of the Ontario barbershoppers society begin with the song written in honour of their tireless dedication to the cause of treating communication disorders: "We sing that they shall speak."

### **In perfect harmony**

Barbershop harmony is a style of a capella, or unaccompanied vocal music, consisting of four-part chords. Generally the lead sings the melody; the tenor harmonizes above the melody with the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes and the baritone completing the chord.

Barbershop harmony is a uniquely North American art form, dating back to the tonsorial parlors and minstrel shows of the late 1800s.

Despite its name, this close-harmony singing is not just for men. According to the World Harmony Council website, independent organizations for women in the United States, Canada and abroad number more than 30,000 active participants. Moreover, there are more than 70,000 aficionados of barbershop harmony in the various organizations that make up the World Harmony Council.

### **A song for George**

Even with all the honours and awards, George is a humble, down-to-earth guy. He makes a point of recognizing his associates on the Harmonize For Speech Fund Board of Trustees and the hundreds of barbershoppers, speech language pathologists and volunteers who assist his efforts.

Speech Foundation of Ontario will pay tribute to George Shields for his extraordinary and far-reaching support in the field of Speech-Language Pathology during National Speech and Hearing Month, on May 27, 2007.

"George Shields is a remarkable man, who has demonstrated unparalleled support of our cause," said Dr. Robert Kroll, Program Director of the Speech Foundation of Ontario's Stuttering Centre.

"If anyone is worthy of being honoured, it is most certainly George," he added. The event has already raised almost \$100,000, and more than 250 people are registered to attend.

*Thank you.Thank you.Thank you.*

*What a wonderful send off the Vocal Federation gave to our College Quartet Rep.to Denver.*

*The support of the chapter,families and friends was fantastic.*

*I want to thank Harold's Angels ,members wives, and all those who pitched in with all the set up,preparations and clean up.*

*It's great to have such support.I want to apologize to those who felt we should have had a meeting and I did not.I'm sorry.*

*Thanks to everyone who participated.*

*Sylvia McDougall.*

# Sound of music embedded in vocal vibrations, scientists say

Last Updated: Friday, May 25, 2007 | 11:41 AM ET

CBC News

The essential tones of human music are rooted in the physics of how our vocal cords produce vowels, according to a study published Friday.

Researchers at Duke University's Center for Cognitive Neuroscience found that particular notes sound right to our ears because of the way our vocal apparatus makes the vowel sounds used in human languages.

Humans can't hear it directly, but when the sounds of speech are looked at with a spectrum analyzer, the relationships between the frequencies produced in the throat correspond with the relationships between notes in the 12-tone chromatic scale of music, said Dale Purves, the George Barth Geller Professor for Research in Neurobiology.

When humans speak, our vocal cords vibrate to create "peaks" of resonant sound in air coming from the lungs that can be modified by the way we change the shape or position of our tongue, lips, soft palate or throat.

The two lowest vocal tract resonances, called formants, are used to produce vowels, said Purves.

"Take away the first two formants and you can't understand what a person is saying," Purves said.

The frequency of the first formant is between 200 and 1,000 cycles per second (hertz) and the second formant is between 800 and 3,000 hertz.

When a speaker produces a vowel sound, it resonates on the two frequencies, with each vowel producing a different ratio between the frequencies. Purves said these ratios match up consistently with the ratios in musical tuning.

For example, the relationship between the two frequencies produced in the English vowel found in "bought" might match up with the musical interval between C and A on a piano keyboard, Purves said.

Purves and co-authors Deborah Ross and Jonathan Choi tested the idea by recording native English and native Mandarin Chinese speakers uttering vowel sounds in both languages and comparing those sounds and their frequency ratios to the numerical ratios found in music.

They say the results could help explain why some cultures prefer one kind of music to another, particularly if differences in vowel sounds found in the languages produce different resonances.

The study was published Friday in the online version of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

July 2 – Betty Schieman

July 9 – Leigh Laughton

July 13 – Mary Bazely

July 22 – Ken Vanderheyden

August 1 – Walt DeRuiter

August 8 – Isabel Bowron

August 10 – Norma Allen

August 17 – Bill Gough

August 18 – Bill Smith

August 19 – Nancy Langs

August 31 – Diny Craenen



### ANNIVERSARIES

July 6 – Gil and Diny Craenen

July 9 – Bob and Eunice Fennell

July 9 – Brian and Carrie Yorke

July 18 – Doug and Nancy Langs

July 23 – Blake and Audrey Hughes

August 14 – John and Enid Gough

August 28 – Ken and Joanne  
Vanderheyden



*Gil and Diny Craenen are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on July 6<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held On Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 till 4 P.M., at the Senior Centre.*



**Saturday July 21,2007**

Hotdog sales at Super Store.  
Please be there at 10:00.

**Wednesday August 8,2007**

Annual Horseshoe Pitch.  
At Mike Robinson's back yard.  
Same as last year.

**Tuesday September 11,2007**

Western Div."Christmas Benefit Concert",  
Rehearsal BBQ by London Chapter.

**Saturday September 15,2007**

Annual Golf Tournament.  
Arkona Fairways,2:00 PM

**Saturday September 22,2007**

Scott Wood Concert.  
Gemini Sports Complex,7:00 PM

**Saturday September 29,2007**

Performance for Masonic Lodge.  
Mt.Brydges Community Centre,7:30 PM.

**October 19-21,2007**

District Fall Convention.  
Sanderson Convention Centre,Brantford.

**Thursday October 25,2007**

Performance for "Medical Health & Alliance"  
Bear Creek Golf Club.  
There will be practice night after  
this performance.

**Sunday October 28,2007**

St Andrew's Church Anniversary,  
(to be confirmed.)

**Friday December 7,2007**

Mt.Brydges Community Centre Christmas

**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 Evening at 8:00 P.M.**

**Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	Frank Knoll	519-264-2856
<b>District Delegate</b>	Frank Knoll	519-264-2856
<b>Secretary</b>	Orval Allen	519-246-1234
<b>Treasurer</b>	Les Campbell	519-245-0359
<b>Chapter Dev.V.P.</b>	Larry Driessens	519-245-2851
<b>Music V.P.</b>	Roswell McPherson	519-245-1711
<b>Communications V.P.</b>	Gil Craenen	519-245-2888
<b>Program V.P.</b>	Leigh Laughton	519-264-1464
<b>Performance V.P.</b>	Raymond Mason	519-264-1850
<b>Marketing &amp; P.R. V.P.</b>	Henry Wiersema	519-589-5562
<b>Board Member At Large</b>	Bob Fennell	519-693-4280
<b>Board Member At Large</b>	Bill Robertson	519-245-0979

**Appointments**

<b>Quartet Chairman</b>	Bob Howlett
<b>Historian</b>	Ernie McEwen
<b>Service Projects &amp; Fundraising Chairman</b>	Bill Robertson
<b>Uniform Chairman</b>	Bill Galbraith
<b>Show Committee Chairman</b>	Orval Allen
<b>Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher</b>	Gil Craenen
<b>Kitchen Steward</b>	Les Campbell
<b>Sunshine Chairman</b>	Gord Nisbet

**Music Team**

<b>Music V.P.</b>	- Roswell McPherson
<b>Music Director</b>	- John Gough
<b>Music Director</b>	- Jim McDougall
<b>Librarian</b>	- Dan Schieman

**Section Leaders**

<b>Tenor</b>	- Ernie McEwen
<b>Lead</b>	- Bob Howlett
<b>Baritone</b>	- John Gough
<b>Bass</b>	- Jim McDougall

**WEBSITES**

Vocal Federation [www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/](http://www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/)  
Ontario District [www.ont.spebqsa.org](http://www.ont.spebqsa.org)  
Barbershop International [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)  
Ashow [www.ashow.org](http://www.ashow.org)

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



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



**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 the 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 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 benefits 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 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**

**Editor - Gil A. Craenen**

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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.