

June  
1998

Issue 3 - 4



# The Federation's Fanfare

Strathroy  
Chapter  
Established  
1995

Member of  
Ontario  
District



*"Trumpeting the Federation's news to it's borders and beyond."*

## **Pennings from the Prez**

**Jim McDougall - President**

Soon after our show, a very successful guest night, May 13<sup>th</sup>, with five guests present. Thanks to Frank Knoll for organizing a real swell evening for their first taste of barbershop. Also thanks to those members who were the singer bringers and most sincere welcome to all our new guests.

We will certainly miss Tim Dayfoot as he leaves us for and we certainly wish him the very best. I hope that Tim can continue to baritone his way into a new barbershop chapter near their new home. We hope to see him on stage at a future convention. Although we can't replace Tim, our successful guest might produce some new recruits.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, several Strathroy Chapter members visited with Sarnia Chapter and others to get a new glimpse of the newest Society staff member, Kirk Young. Thanks to everyone who participated and a hearty thanks to Sarnia Chapter for hosting. We cancelled our regular meeting that week just to take in the night in Sarnia and we were not disappointed. Kirk's presentation was so close to what Brian and John preach on a regular basis that all the good singing practices were re-emphasized to all of us in attendance. Kirk's explanation of the open, head tone sound is exactly the same as John's "radio voice". Back to basics is the key. It certainly was a good evening and we certainly enjoyed hearing "The Wave" again.

Many thanks to all the personnel in the oversized VLQ that performed at the Annual Strathroy Fair Variety Show. Even though I was unable to attend, I understand from all reports that you thrilled the compact audience assembled. I know that the Fair Board will be calling us again. Well done!

It is really nice to know that we continue to be so popular in the community due to the fact that we have had to turn down several performance opportunities recently requested of us. It is unfortunate that we can't barbershop all the time. We certainly will be busy this fall with several singing engagements. Keep your calendars handy.

Fourthwith Sound had the opportunity of enjoying the wonderful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the St. Thomas Chapter last Saturday evening. I conveyed our congratulations to them and wished them all the best for 30 more years of Barbershop harmony.

As we look down the road as a chapter and chorus, our next step may well be what we think we want to look like at next Spring's District Convention. Look for news from the Uniform Committee and the Chapter Board in the not too distant future.

Summer is upon us and we hope to see all of you at our many social activities throughout the summer. Don't forget the Pool Party, the Chapter Horseshoe Tourney and we can't leave out the Golf Tournament.

*The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the Strathroy Chapter of the  
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing In America, Inc.*

**The Strathroy Chapter meets Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm at St. Andrews Presbyterian  
Church at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in Strathroy, Ontario Canada.**

## SUCCESSFUL GUEST NIGHT CONTINUES GROWTH

Frank Knoll - Membership V.P.

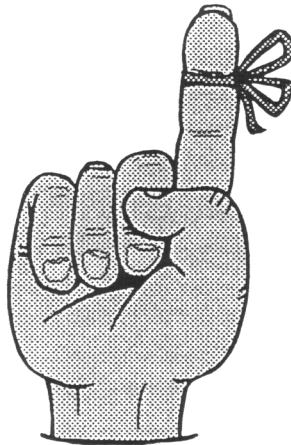
Just eleven days after our very successful show we held our first guest night of 1998. Five guests graced our presence that night: Jeff Giffels, Collin Palmer, George Thompson, Gerald Goodhand and Garney Snelgrove (Frank Thorne member back from the sunny south). Two other guests visited us the following week: Bill Gough and Thomas Brown.

Several of these men have been back to see us in recent weeks and are fitting in well with our motley crew.

Garney Snelgrove has transferred his membership from the Frank Thorne Chapter to Strathroy making him the newest member of the Strathroy Chapter. Welcome Garney!

Along with this happiness comes the unfortunate news that we are losing Tim Dayfoot. Tim, Leta and their children, Sophia and Andrew, are moving to the area north west of Toronto where Tim is taking a new charge. We will sincerely miss them but wish them all the very best and hope that Tim can find a solid barbershop chord in his new locale.

Remember guys - Every Night Is A Guest - Bring a friend, bring a family member, bring a neighbour. You know they would all be mad at you if they found out you were keeping all this fun to yourself.



## From The Mail Bag, E-Mail That Is

Hello everyone. I received the singing order for the International College Quartet Contest in the mail today so I thought I would pass it on for those who are interested. Here goes:

### Quartets

Mike Tester-- Diversity

1. Four Past Midnight
2. High Life
3. Khakis
4. The Statesmen (That's me!)
5. 3rd Avenue West
6. Lazy Dog
7. Terminal Barbershop
8. Aggienizers
9. Testament
10. Recently Delinquent Minors

Intermission

11. Vocal Point
12. Prime Cut
13. Station 59
14. On the Rocks
15. Elysium
16. Harmony Express
17. Sometimes Five
18. The New West End
19. United Airways
20. 4 Cryin' Out Loud

1997 Champion--Freefall

Matt Harader

Ottawa, Kansas

Bass, Heart of America Chorus

Bass, The Statesmen (College Quartet)



## How To Sing Cool Songs

Clay Hine, Music Director

Big Chicken Chorus, Marietta, Georgia

(Taken from Rebel Rouser, Dixie District Bulletin, Winter 1995)

One problem quite a few of us are having is finding new songs to sing. The easiest way for most of us to sing these gems is by hearing other groups do them (like on quartet and chorus recordings). This works okay in some cases but could be disaster in other cases.

This is because many times we try to sing a song "just like the champs" (referred to as "Trying To Sing Like The Champs" syndrome), or we pick a song that is over our heads (referred to as .....oh never mind). I always try to keep in mind a very important rule of arranging and/or choosing songs - *music does not exist on paper*. What the heck does that mean? It means a great song is great because somebody sang it great. It also generally follows that somebody sang it great because they performed the song in a way that fit them the best.

So how does this help all of us non-champ barbershoppers? Well, since we're all obviously interested in music, we all have some kind of an ear and appreciation for it. We've all got a much better shot at being the best Joe Singer (not the guy who makes sewing machines) than we do trying to be the best Joe Connelly. I, therefore, submit the statement that anyone reading this has some ability to alter the interpretation (and sometimes arrangement) of a song to fit his own particular group the best.)

Going even farther with this, anyone reading this who can read or play through a barbershop arrangement of a song has the ability to develop his own performance plan. Are that all going to be great? Of course not.

However, part of this process is to realize this and step back and try to objectively evaluate what you've come up with. Does anything seem to stop the flow of the music (like a swipe held too long or a chord that doesn't tune)? Are there spots that sounded good by themselves but awkward when the whole song was performed? Does the song seem to constantly move forward? This is also the point where it's extremely useful to bring in a fifth ear (often called a dismembered body part, or sometimes a coach) to give

you this type of feedback.

The title of this had something to do with repertoire, but you'll notice I didn't list a bunch of songs to pick from. As I said above, a great song is great because somebody sang it great. The best way to pick great repertoire songs, then, is not to copy a song and performance of a song that brings out somebody else's strength, but rather to find songs and performance plans that bring out your group's own strengths. What should we call this concept. How about creativity. And the great thing is, everyone who has the love of music that most barbershoppers do has the ability to be creative.

## JOHN'S JOTTINGS

John Gough Chorus Co-Director

I was just sitting at the piano fifteen before leaving for Barbershop. I can sing all parts with the help of the piano, so I can try to teach a new tag tonight. I can play the lead and sing the baritone, tenor and bass. I can play any note when I get stuck and can't figure out an interval. I can play all four parts on the piano and sing-along any part. I can do all this but I can't sing a tag until I get to Barbershop tonight because I need those three other guys who want to sing a tag to make it complete.

Thanks for coming out each and every night that you do. It simply wouldn't be the same without you!!



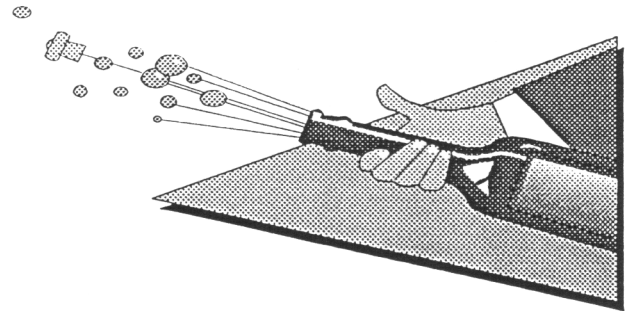
## Team Work Pays Off



Team work certainly paid off for gentlemen, and I use the term loosely (Editors Note: "Poor Sport"), whose names are listed in the table on the right hand side of the page. This team topped all others in ticket sales for the 1998 Strathroy Chapter Show. They sold 223 tickets in comparison to 195 and 183 tickets respectively. As top selling team they will be treated to Pizza at a pizza party on June 17<sup>th</sup> following a abbreviated chapter rehearsal. Congratulations gentlemen!

### Top Ticket Selling Team

Mark Carruthers  
 Arnold Dixon  
 Larry Driessens  
 Bob Fennell  
 Ted Gough  
 Bob Howlett  
 John King  
 Norm Leckie  
 Hugh McCutcheon  
 Brian McDougall  
 Don Nisbet  
 Bert Schmidt



Ernie McEwen - Ticket Chairman

## CHAPTER BOARD BITS

At the Board Meeting held on May 21, 1998, the main topic of discussion was the Chapter Show.

The Ticket Chairman had notified the Show Committee of the top selling ticket team and subsequently the Board established that the top selling team would receive their reward on June 17<sup>th</sup> following an abbreviated chapter meeting.

The Board of Directors discussed the use of the rented vests and will be expecting further recommendations from the Uniform Committee in that or a related vein as we move toward expansion of the current formal uniform.

(Editor's Note: I cannot confirm it from the most recent Board meeting, but I have heard rumblings that the Board is interested in a logo for the Vocal Federation. If you have any ideas, and I know a few of you have, put them down on paper, sketch them out, you never know when a contest might spring up.)

**Next meeting: June 22, 1998 at 8:00 pm at the home of Jim McDougall.**

## SHOW COMMITTEE CRUMBS

The Show Committee members reviewed the 1998 Chapter Shows and did some planning for the 1999 Show. The committee discussed the modest matinee crowd and rationalized why. The length of the evening show was also discussed. The ticket sales for each of the shows were reviewed and the significant difference between the total ticket sales and the number of people in attendance.

Several decisions were made for the 1999 Show after significant discussion and based on past experiences. The date for the 1999 Strathroy Chapter Show is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999. There will be only one show to be held in the evening, tentatively at 7:30pm. We will once again be utilizing the Auditorium at Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, application complete and to the Thames Valley Board Office. It was also decided that the Vocal Federation and our own chapter quartets will be asked to take a larger role and we will reduce our imported talent to one or two quartets.

If you have any questions or ideas for next years show, please speak to any member of the Show Committee, but do it soon because we are finalizing plans very quickly.

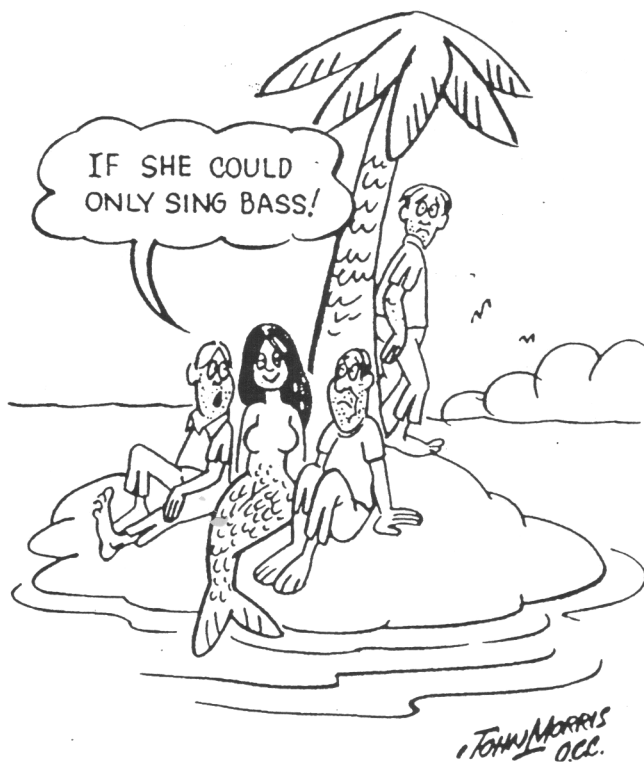
**Next Show Committee Meeting: June 22, 1998 at 8:00 pm at the home of Jim McDougall.**

## Kirk Young Visits Sarnia

Twenty members of the Strathroy Chapter, as well as members of both the St. Thomas and Forest City Chapters, travelled to Sarnia to enjoy an evening with Kirk Young and the Sarnia. Kirk is a new face on the Society staff having joined the staff just 13 weeks prior to his visit.

Kirk took the combined chorus through a fantastic warm-up, vocal development exercise that with many variables was extended to almost 45 minutes in length. We then had the opportunity to learn a few new tags from Kirk, to the delight of all in attendance. After the break, The Wave sangs three songs for the crowd assembled, then Kirk discussed his visits that day to local secondary schools. He elaborated on some ideas to assist with local school and community programs. Then related each of these opportunities to Sarnia and ways in which they can be involved with each of these and other Sarnia secondary schools.

Kirk provided us with several ideas that we should be incorporating into our Youth Outreach initiative. It could also be heard in several conversations that although the terminology was different, Kirk was teaching the same type of singing as John and Brian have been. Hmmmm, interesting!



## VLQ at the Fair

- John King -

The Vocal Federation VLQ was contracted to sing on the Variety Show at the Strathroy Fair on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998. I'm not sure whether it was caused by a tremendous interest in the Fair or just the usual, outstanding support of the Vocal Federation members, but we had enough men there to call ourselves a chorus.

Unfortunately there wasn't a very large audience at the official opening or at the start of the Variety Show and as a result we all but outnumbered the audience we were performing for. We sang quite a variety of songs, which seemed to be enjoyed by the audience despite echo chamber effect that the arena seemed to provide. I'm certainly glad I had the strong bass voice of Frank Lewis next to me. The acoustics were a bit challenging but this was still another opportunity for the Vocal Federation to get public exposure at a paid performance and support the community at the same time. The guys did their usual great job and of course it was lots of fun.

## Take time for 10 things, plus one.

(Source Unknown)

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.

## The Ugly "r"

(Derbytown Gazette,  
Ed Crosley, Editor)

The most common and distressing fault in diction throughout the United States (and for that matter Canada too) is anticipation of the ending "r". It is the ugliest and roughest sound in the English language, similar to the growl of a dog. Southerners and many New Englanders avoid the harsh ending "r" hurdle by omitting it entirely, but this is not a satisfactory solution.

Anticipation of the "r" is not so objectionable in speech where the word or syllable in which it occurs is not sustained. In a song, however, where attempts are made to sustain it like a vowel, the sound is horrible to the sensitive ear.

One answer, to assist in singing the "r" when necessary, is to stay on the preceding vowel sound until the last possible moment, then lightly place the "r" at the end of the word by raising the tongue from the lower gum line. It will put the "r" in, but make it much more pleasing to the ear.

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### Change

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

If you always **do** what you've always **done**,  
Then you'll 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**.

---

### The Singers

God sent his singer upon earth  
With songs of gladness and of mirth,  
That they might touch the hearts of men  
and bring them back to Heaven again.

*Longfellow*

# Barbershop Extravaganza

## Strathroy Chapter Show 1998

### TICKET SALES SUMMARY

Matinee Sales	82 Tickets
Evening Sales	526 Tickets

### TWO DOZEN CLUB (TOP TEN TICKETS SELLERS)

We would like to thank everyone who sold tickets for the show, but special mention is deserved by those members who sold 24 or more tickets.

Jim McDougall	68
Ted Gough	58
Bob Fennell	41
Ernie McEwen	40
Bill Galbraith	36
Les Campbell	35
Arnold Dixon	29
Brian McDougall	28
Bob Howlett	24
Frank Lewis	24



# Quartet Corner

Currently, three active quartets have members in the Strathroy Chapter. However, if you hold your ear close to the wall you can hear the faint overtone of another quartet trying to figure out if they should buy matching socks. Stay tune next time for more cutting edge news.

## Fourthwith Sound

(Keith Campbell-Tenor, Jim McDougall-Lead, John Gough-Baritone, Frank Knoll-Bass)

June 13<sup>th</sup> - Frank Street Walk - Archaeological Tour  
 Sponsored by Strathroy Middlesex Museum  
 June 13<sup>th</sup> - St. Thomas Chapter 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

Tough to practice when you're as busy as these guys, they've performed twice as often as they have practice this month.

## RURAL ROOTS

(Ernie McEwen-Tenor, Bob Howlett-Lead, Ros McPherson-Baritone, Craig Bycraft-Bass)

June 8<sup>th</sup> - Sang at the Glencoe Lioness' Annual Dinner and Election of Officers

They are busy working some new material including a new contest ballad and a new opener.



(Steve Stewart-Tenor, Brian McDougall-Lead, Rich Lauzon-Baritone, Gord Miller-Bass)

May 28<sup>th</sup> - Sang in Sarnia at Kirk Young

The Wave is working on some new repertoire and is available for performances. The Wave has a family performance coming up this month and has a couple of additional performance later on in the summer.

# Pick-Up Quartet Activities

June 14<sup>th</sup> - McKinley-Paul Park Re-Opening  
 Keith Campbell - Tenor, Jim McDougall - Lead, Ros McPherson - Baritone, Les Campbell - Bass



"Too tall to be a Jockey and too short to play Basketball, I turned out to be exactly the right height to sing in the Chorus."



## Strathroy Chapter

Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA

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

President	Jim McDougall	(519) 245-0843
Treasurer	Les Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Secretary	Bob Day	(519) 246-1791
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
Music V.P.	Blake Hughes	(519) 264-1245
Program V.P.	Larry Driessens	(519) 245-2851
Performance V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-0607
Board Mem. At Large	Ernie McEwen	(519) 245-1051
Board Mem. At Large	Keith Campbell	(519) 666-0090

### Music Team

Music V.P. - Blake Hughes	Section Leaders
Chorus Director - John Gough	Tenor - Ernie McEwen
Chorus Director - Brian McDougall	Lead - Bob Howlett
Librarian - Arnold Dixon	Baritone - John Gough
	Bass - Jim McDougall

### Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Bill Bowron
Attendance Recorder	Frank Knoll
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Tom Linden
Service Projects Chairman	Les Campbell
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
1998 Show Committee Co-Chairman	Jim McDougall
	Bob Day
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Brian McDougall
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

### The Federation Fanfare

Editor - Brian J. McDougall

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The Federation 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.

# Next "Fanfare" Deadline: July 29, 1998

"What we learn with pleasure we never forget."

Alfred Mercier

### Chapter Celebrations

June 20  
June 24  
July 1  
July 4  
July 9  
July 21  
July 22  
August 2  
August 4

### Chapter Birthdays

Sylvia McDougall  
Jim McDougall  
Hugh Nisbet  
Edna Simpson  
Jill Day  
Burke Walker  
Mark Carruthers  
Keith Campbell  
Isabel Bowron

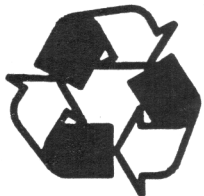
### Chapter Anniversaries

June 20 John & Jeanne King  
June 21 Ted & Jiggs Gough  
June 25 Bill & Carol Stanley  
June 29 Norm & Nancy Leckie  
June 30 Bud & Stella Jackson  
July 9 Bob and Eunice Fennell  
July 23 Blake & Audrey Hughes  
July 25 Brian & Sandy McDougall

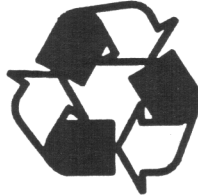
## Coming Events



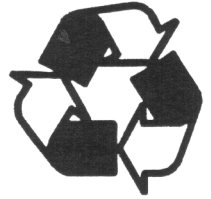
June 22	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 & 8:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home
June 28 - July 5	International Convention
	Atlanta, Georgia
July 19	Chapter Pool Party
1:00 pm	Jim & Sylvia McDougall's
July 27	Chapter Board Meeting
8:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home
August 19	Chapter Horseshoe Tournament
6:00 pm	Les & Donna Campbell's
August 31	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 & 8:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home
Sept. 26	Chapter Golf Tournament
1:00 pm	Wardsville Golf Club
Sept. 28	Chapter Show Comm. & Board Meeting
7:00 & 8:00 pm	Jim McDougall's Home



Please Recycle This  
Issue Of The  
Federation's  
Fanfare



It Pays To Share  
Your Bulletin.  
Let Your Family  
In On The FUN!



# We Sing.....That They Shall Speak

Speech, like song, unites the voices of children and men in common understanding.  
Like sinaina, speech is easily learned by some; for others special effort is required.