

August
1999

Issue 4 - 5



The Federation's Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District



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

Shoes Fly, Leaves Fall and Tags Sung at the 3rd Annual Chapter Horseshoe Tourney

Ernie McEwen

August 11, 1999: Over half the chapter, 25 or so men gradually arrived to greet the peace and serenity of Les and Donna Campbell's back yard. Of course the odd clank of a horseshoe could be heard after 6:30 pm and you even heard a tag or a song by 8:00 pm.

All that aside ... What a beautiful spot to pitch shoes. The weather was absolutely perfect. The hamburgs, hotdogs and salads were, as usual great and if you went home hungry it was nobody's fault but your own. Quartet and gang singing filled the night air much to the dismay of a neighbouring furry, four legged critic, and Fourthwith Sound even had the chance to reintroduce themselves to each other and sing a song or two.

I have been barbershopping for 25 years and always in a chapter with a horseshoe tournament. I have come close to winning about five times before but this year with partner Bill Galbraith, we were able to capture the top spot. What a great thrill for me and I think Bill was pretty excited about it to. Keith Campbell and Don Pyper were our opponents in the finals. Don Pyper was a semi-finals replacement for Larry Driessens.

Thanks to Bill for being such a good partner and many thanks to our hosts, Les and Donna for their hospitality. A great time was had by all - don't miss it next year.

VLQ Entertains in London

Arnold Dixon

On the evening of July 12th, thirteen members of the chapter provided after dinner entertainment at the Grosvenor Club in London.

The host for the evening was Middlesex Mutual Insurance Company of Ilderton. Guests included the Board of Directors and spouses of the Ontario Mutual Insurance Association (OMIA) and other officers of the OMIA and the Farm Mutual Re-insurance Plan, as well as the Board of Directors of Middlesex Mutual and their spouses.

The guys were in excellent form and sang about nine songs, beginning with "It's a Happy Day", then a mixture of old and new repertoire, a couple of 'polecat' songs and ended with "We sing that they shall speak / Keep the whole world singing".

The VLQ did a tremendous job and left to a standing ovation - way to go! Many thanks to the gentlemen for making the effort to get to London and for a job extremely well done.

Welcome Wagon to deliver Barbershop Flyers

Bud Jackson

In the near future all new residents of the Town of Strathroy, when receiving their information package from Welcome Wagon, will receive a flyer from the Vocal Federation to let everyone know how to find us.

*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.

Bytes and Pieces

Downloaded from spebsqsa.org - taken from

Update July 1999 and August 1999 - Publication of SPEBSQSA

"Collegians better than ever"

Almost everyone agreed that the performances in the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest were the best ever. Winners of cash awards were:

Station 59	University of Florida	\$4,000
On The Rocks	Bowling Green University, Ohio	\$1,500
Millennium	NW Missouri State U.	\$1,200
Southern Harmony	Rongotai College (NZ)	\$1,000
Terminal Barbershop	University of Toronto (CAN)	\$800

"Convention Countdown"

By the end of July over 2000 registrations for the Kansas City convention had been received. Midwinter Convention in Tucson already has almost 500 registrants.

"Harmonizer seeks Editor"

Dan Daily has announced his intention to retire as editor of The Harmonizer before the end of this year, completing ten years of unselfish service to the Society in that post. (For the complete story of Dan's tenure and accomplishments, please see the new issue of The Harmonizer.

Dan's retirement creates a rare job opening at Harmony Hall in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and applications are now being accepted by Brian Lynch, Public Relations Director. Basic skills sought include: outstanding writing and editing skills; layout and prepress skills, including PageMaker, PhotoShop and Illustrator or other draw programs; proficiency in writing styles ranging from straight news to features, promotional, and educational material; and web publishing skills. Knowledge of barbershop and SPEBSQSA are obviously a plus, but not the first priority. For a detailed job description, see www.spebsqsa.org/Harmonizer/editorjob.htm. Send email to: editorjob@spebsqsa.org

Computer technician sought at headquarters

Incredible opportunity for a junior-level technician can be yours at Harmony Hall.

We're looking for a bright, enthusiastic developer and PC maintenance specialist kind of a "geek of all trades." Experience in web development, Microsoft Access, and some PC hardware and software maintenance could be your hot ticket to a cool job at Society headquarters in Kenosha, Wisconsin. If you think you fit the bill, send your resume to CoolJobs@spebsqsa.org. Great benefits and one of the best places to work in the country can be yours. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity!

Ordering unpublished arrangements?

Instructions for ordering arrangements from the 1999 Catalog of Arrangements are shown on page 25 therein, which include telephone numbers. However, when ordering unpublished arrangements from the catalog, it is highly preferred that orders be placed other than by phone.

Orders for unpublished arrangements may be placed: via fax to (414) 654-4048; or by regular mail. E-mail: tbarr@spebsqsa.org
nforis@spebsqsa.org
library@spebsqsa.org

Each order for an unpublished arrangement requires that it be individually photocopied by Old Songs Library personnel, so allow for up to two weeks for delivery.

Orders must be accompanied by MasterCard or Visa information. Be sure to include a chapter number on all chapter orders. Download the catalog at www.spebsqsa.org/arrangements.

To The Gals

Anyone interested in joining a Bridge Group to begin in September(?), please contact Mary Vair at 245 - 7555.



***“Can't Stop Singing”* celebrates barbershop harmony at its finest.**

Overcome with emotion, 1999 Champion REVIVAL in the moment of victory. A fascinating blend of performance, storytelling, and backstage romance, “Can't Stop Singing” is the story of barbershop harmony singers, people for whom songs about moon June, Mother, and the girl next door are part of the fabric of their lives. It's a celebration of the camaraderie that makes four men unabashedly cry at the joy of a beautifully sung love song, and the trust that melds them a performing unit as smooth as a baseball triple play combination.

Hosted by Nick Clooney, “Can't Stop Singing” a new performance documentary premiering on PBS stations across the country this August, is a revelatory, captivating look at barbershop of the '90s. Today's quartets are so much more than the straw-hatted, “Sweet Adeline”; singers of years past; these days, if you see a quartet in straw hats, it's likely part of a tongue-in-cheek comedy routine!

Can't Stop Singing goes behind the scenes at the 60th annual competition of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) in Atlanta to show the intense coaching and rehearsal that leads to a world-class stage performance of these amateur singers. Extensive interviews with the performers reveal the lives of quite ordinary people who, for one brief moment, become the best in the world at their chosen craft.

Like championship ballroom dancing or marching bands, the world of competitive barbershop harmony has developed a subculture of passionately devoted performers, fans, coaches and volunteers whose lives are swept up in their art form. “Can't Stop Singing”

captures their passion by going backstage to trace the fortunes of several quartets pursuing the world championship. They include: from Albuquerque, Bank Street: Five-time medalists, veteran performers, with high qualifying marks entering the contest, have sung together for fifteen years. The group - two computer professionals, a manufacturer's representative, and a high school music teacher - finished fourth in the previous year's competition.

From Marietta, Georgia, just outside Atlanta, the comical FRED: Hometown favorites, FRED's members include a microwave engineer, an information systems manager, an architect, and an insurance agent, and came in second last year. Masters of slapstick, FRED is an audience favorite, but can a comedy quartet win the championship?

From Ohio, Turning Point: A hot young group making its first appearance in international competition, Turning Point qualified just three weeks after forming as a quartet. Its members include two music teachers, an executive recruiter, and a college freshman.

From Southern California, Revival: Revival has been to the international competition twice, but did not win a medal. This quartet -- which includes a music student, a businessman, an insurance executive, and a catalog editor -- are suddenly rising stars who are the buzz of the barbershop world with their impressive performances. In addition to the individual stories, the documentary reveals intense preparation the singers give to nuances of form, line, and motion; the roar of the appreciative crowd welcoming its favorite performers; the years of careful rehearsal culminating in a brief outpouring of passion and expression. This is the barbershop quartet singing of today, a story that is ultimately about love.

In the midst of all the aftermath, surrounded by hoopla, hugs and hurrahs, the distinction between old champions, new champions, and would-be champions seems less clear, and certainly less important. Clooney observes. “This is, after all, a brotherhood - a fiercely competitive yet loving brotherhood, united in song, single of purpose, dedicated to making the world a little happier, one song at a time.”

Don't forget to check out our web site at:
www.bam.on.ca/VocalFederation/

"Can't Stop Singing" : the Musical Heritage

"Can't Stop Singing" celebrates an American musical art form founded in the latter part of the 19th century, and enjoying a resurgence of vitality on the brink of the 21st century. It's called barbershop harmony, and it's one of the few musical forms considered uniquely American in its origins, along with jazz, the spiritual, and the cowboy song.

Barbershop harmony is a melting pot musical style, combining European hymn-singing tradition with African-American improvisational harmonies and chord progressions. First popularized in traveling minstrel shows and vaudeville, the style known as "barbershop" flourished during the 1890s-1920s, and was a staple of the earliest years of the recording industry.

The style today is practiced by more than 34,000 members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA), and more than 70,000 adherents around the world.

Quartet singing is the core of the style, of course, and still considered the most prestigious segment of the hobby. But the vast majority of barbershop harmony singers perform in choruses, which range in size from a dozen to more than 150 men.

"Can't Stop Singing" explores the choral aspect of the hobby with rehearsal segments and interviews with top directors, and championship performances from four-time champions the Alexandria Harmonizers and eight-time champions The Vocal Majority.

Can't Stop Singing: the Musical Selections

There is music aplenty, of course, from the sweet, sentimental ballads that are the core of the barbershop style, to jazz-flavored, intricate arrangements showcasing the musical versatility of the top performers.

"Can't Stop Singing" features familiar songs from the heyday of Tin Pan Alley, to relatively new songs from the swing era and today.

An enduring facet of the barbershop style is a love of slapstick and G-Rated, family-oriented fun. Parodies, spoofs and good-natured send-ups of other performers enliven "Can't Stop Singing" with material new to general audiences, and loads of fun for them as they discover the barbershop world.

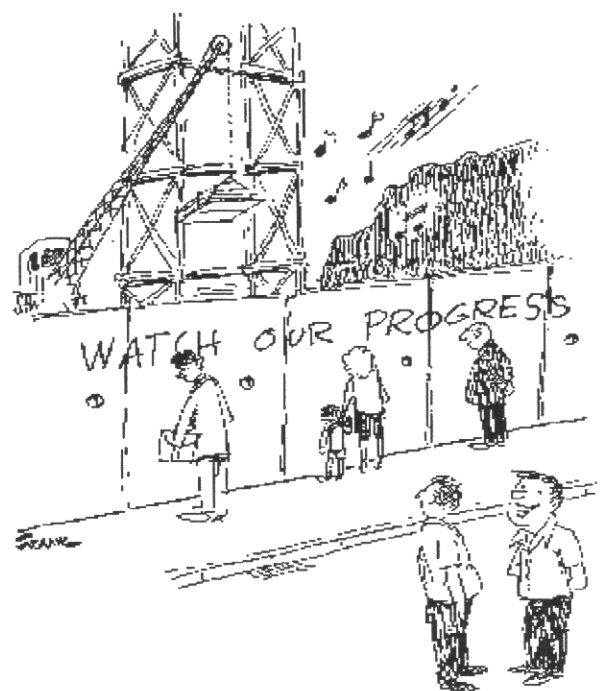
Love Me And The World Is Mine - Simple, sweet ballad from the classic barbershop era

Nobody Knows What A Redhead Mama Can Do - Jazz-rhythms and hot chord progressions

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho - Foot-stomping gospel sung with intensity and dazzling choreography

In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning / Always Medley - Two classic love songs intricately interwoven into counterpoint, performed by the 150-man Harmonizers chorus

Stupid Name medley - One top competitors' comic tribute to all the names of past world champions. "It pays to have a silly name!"



"They are watching the Chorus practice!"

Can't Stop Singing - Performer Profiles

FRED-Marietta, Georgia

1997 Silver Medalists

A stupid name for a great quartet. "Clown princes of barbershop harmony, among the favorites at the opening of the contest. Audiences expect and love their hilarious parodies and spoofs of the other performers.

REVIVAL-San Diego, California

1997 eighth -place finalists

Four veteran performers, singing together in a new quartet. These dark horses come from out of the field to challenge for the championship.

BANK STREET-Albuquerque, New Mexico

1997 fourth-place medalists

Previously placed as high as second in the international contest. This quartet is known for its traditional sound, tight cohesive unit skills.

TURNING POINT-Cincinnati, Ohio

A hot young quartet that has qualified for the contest in its first try. Some very young singers in this quartet, representing the success of the barbershop society's efforts to bring the traditional style to a new generation of singers.

ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS-Alexandria, Virginia

Four-time world champion chorus

The Harmonizers are one of the oldest and most successful choruses in the barbershop world. This 150-man chorus is particularly noted for its interpretative lyricism, shown so brilliantly in "Wee Small Hours/Always Medley."

AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY-St. Charles, Missouri

Directed by quartet champion singer Jim Henry, the Ambassadors are a young, aggressive, showy chorus with a flair for entertainment and a strong family bond.

THE VOCAL MAJORITY-Dallas, Texas

Eight-time world-champion chorus

The unrivaled champions of barbershop chorus singing, best-known outside the barbershop world. This powerhouse chorus raises the roof as it hands over the crown to a new champion.

Can't Stop Singing - Airdates In Our Area

Confirmed airdates for "Can't Stop Singing"

Chicago - WTTW - 9/5 - 12:30pm

Lansing, MI - WKAR - 9/19 - 2:00pm

Grand Rapids - WGVU/WGVK - 9/18 -6:30 p.m.

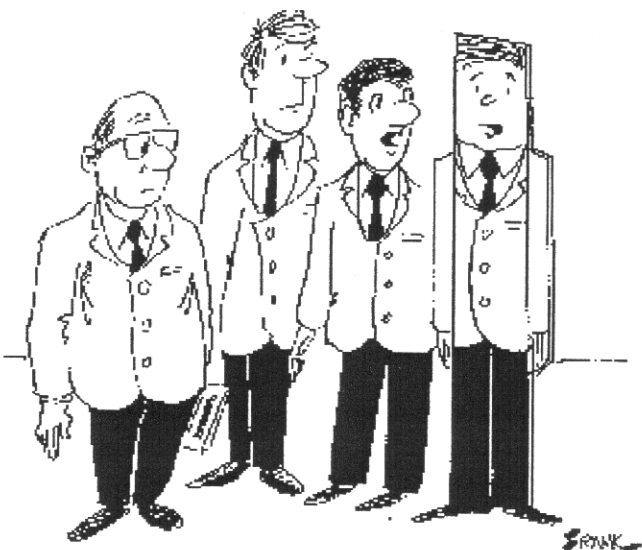
Mt. Pleasant, MI - WCMU - 9/10 - 9:00 p.m.

Other stations carrying "Can't Stop Singing" without a confirmed airtime to date:

Buffalo - WNED-TV, Albany - WMHT-TV,

Cleveland - WVIZ/25, Albany - WMHT/17,

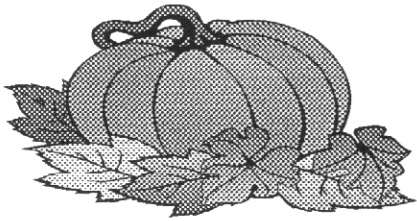
Columbus - WOSE/34



"Cliff... you sing a tad flat!"



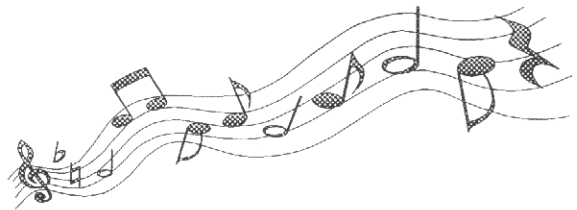
Big Band **Harvest Dance**



*To the Sweet Sounds
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THE "MUSIC MAKERS"

Playing for your listening and dancing pleasure the Music of the 30's , 40's and 50's



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1999

CARADOC COMMUNITY CENTRE (Mount Brydges)

8:30 pm - 1:00 pm

Dancing from 9:00 pm - 12:00 pm

*Sponsored by The Strathroy (Barbershoppers)
Chapter, SPEBSQSA and Auxiliary*

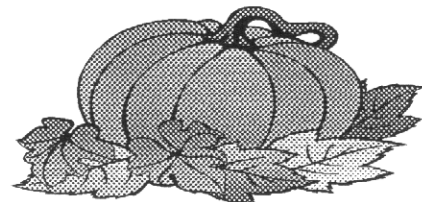
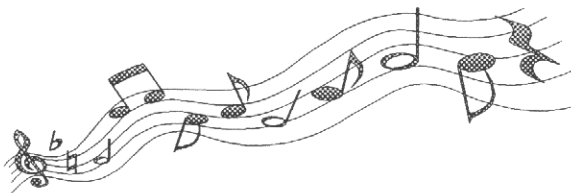
Tickets \$10.00 per person

Cash

Table of 10 - \$90.00

Bar

*For tickets and table reservations
contact any member of the Strathroy Barbershoppers
and Auxiliary or call Sylvia McDougall at 245 - 0843*



Quartet Corner



Fourthwith Sound

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

August 11 - Reacquainted themselves with each other at the Chapter Horseshoe Tournament and even sang a little bit.

August 27 - Sang for two weddings and an anniversary party at Michaels on the Thames.

Hope to try to run a few practices together as fall approaches.

RURAL ROOTS

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

Between harvest and holidays Rural Roots hasn't seen much of each other this summer and fall harvest comes around pretty quick too but they hope to do some singing this fall and maybe even work in a practice or two as well.



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

August 7th - Performed at the Sarnia Chapter Corn Roast at John & Ruth Ann Schoonjans Farm near Camlachie

The Wave is working hard as Fall Competition approaches including some coaching sessions and learning some new material.

Go North My Legions

Frank Knoll - Chapter Development V.P.

A Guest Night is planned for October 6, 1999 at the Leisure Club in Parkhill at 8:00 pm. This will be an advertised event to attract new members from the northern end of our current area of membership. Stay tuned to Frank at chapter meetings for more information. Be there with bells on.

Jim's Jottings

Jim McDougall - President

The summer is fast escaping us, but as I reminisce this has been as blessed one for Sylvia and I.

The Anaheim International Convention was truly an entertaining experience. We shared a lot of that experience with Norma and Orval Allen. The whole week was packed with wonderful activities and it was great to share everything with the Allen's. From the marvelous quartet contest with FRED taking the gold to a spectacular chorus contest that includes champions from everywhere. Orval and I even packed in the Master's Class that gave us a start to finish history of how the Alexandria, Va Harmonizers have had all their success. We even got to the College Quartet Contest and witnessed Terminal Barbershop take fifth place medals. I guess the other experience that will stick in our mind was the Crystal Cathedral. To hear that magnificent building filled with barbershop chords was fantastic.

Warm sunny weather allowed both our Pool Party and Annual Horseshoe Tournament to be fine successes.

Regular Wednesday chapter meetings all summer have allowed us to get a real head start on learning our new material for next year's show. A special welcome to our new co-director Don Pyper. His talent will be very beneficial for the Vocal Federation. I know we are all going to miss Brian a lot. His teaching skills, paired with John's directing skills were what put Strathroy Chapter on the map in a hurry. Our short history of four years has been filled with successes due largely to Brian and John. Of course, I'm prejudice - but if an old man can't brag about his son, well too bad, I already did. I'm very proud of Brian's talents and we wish him well with his quartet endeavors. His talent and skills didn't just stop with singing. His organization, leadership and computer skills have been wonderful asset to the chapter. I hope he will stay on the show committee. Thank you Brian. We will miss you but we understand. Thanks for all the your work over the last four years.

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.	Bill Stanley	(519) 296-4795
Performance V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-5747
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
Chorus Director - John Gough
Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
Chorus Director - Don Pyper
Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

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

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	"Rural Roots"
Attendance Recorder	Frank Knoll
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Tom Linden
Service Projects Chairman	Keith Campbell
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
1999 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 ^fFanfare^f Deadline:
September 29, 1999

"Music, the greatest good that mortals
know, and all of heaven we have below."

Joseph Addison

CHAPTER CELEBRATIONS

are not included in this month's Fanfare due to a minor computer meltdown. A new system for cataloguing chapter celebrations will be established later this year for future Fanfare's Stay tuned.

Future Fanfare Submission Deadlines:

November 3, 1999

December 8, 1999



COMING EVENTS



August 31	Chapter Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home
September 24	Harvest Dance Caradoc Community Centre
Sept. 28	Show Comm. & Chapter Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home
October 6	Guest Night Leisure Club - Parkhill
October 15-17	Ontario District Convention International Plaza Hotel - Toronto
Oct. 26	Show Comm. & Chapter Board Meeting Jim McDougall's Home
November 5	Dawg House Night Kitchener - Waterloo
November 20	Cabaret 99 Voices In Harmony Vocal Federation & London Sweet Adelines Bear Creek Golf Club - Strathroy

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

We Sing.....That They Shall Speak

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