



Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders"

Spring Concert April 5.

The Strathroy Barbershop Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America proudly presents "GRAMPA'S ATTIC" at its annual spring concert on Saturday April 5, 2003. The concert will be held at the Strathroy Community Christian School, located on Highway 81, about 3 kilometers south of Strathroy.

The matinee performance will be at 2:00 p.m. and the evening performance will be at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme "GRAMPA'S ATTIC" showcases some of the favorite songs of the Strathroy Vocal Federation.

The matinee and evening performances will feature guest appearances by "CROSSFIRE", one of the top barbershop harmony quartets in Michigan; the very talented ventriloquist **GORDON VAIR** as well as the Strathroy Chapter quartets "RURAL ROOTS" and "FULLHOUSE" and Strathroy's "VOCAL FEDERATION" chorus (2003 Western Division Champions).

Ticket prices are \$12.50 for adults, \$5.00 for those under age 13 and a \$30.00 family package (parents and their children under age 13). Tickets are available in advance by contacting (519) 245-0843 or The Treasure House, 19 Front St. W., Strathroy (519) 245-4230. Tickets may be also be available at the door.

Some of the funds raised by the Chapter go to support the Harmonize For Speech Foundation, a Canadian organization which funds the treatment and research into speech problems. Come and enjoy a feast of singing and comedy.

Vocal Federation Champs

The Strathroy Vocal Federation chorus attended the Western Division Competition, hosted by the St. Thomas chapter on February 22, and won the Western Division contest. Way to go guys!

Strathroy Show Retreat

The Strathroy chapter held its annual show retreat on March 8 at the Strathroy Community Christian School again this year. Many thanks to Harold's Angels for providing the lunch. It sure was delicious. I usually have to make my own lunch but it can't compare to what the ladies provided. We sure are lucky to have their help.

Singing Valentines

by: Bill Robertson

This past February 14th, Full House and Rural Roots delivered thirty-one Singing Valentines. The fellows covered an area from down town London to a dairy barn and the bar in the Mckellar Hotel in Glencoe. Rural Roots spent part of their morning doing a television appearance on The New Day program.

Meanwhile Full House was driving from schools and offices to homes all over Strathroy, Mt Bridges, London, back to Strathroy then onto Glencoe and Bothwell.

Receipts after expenses were a record for this chapter.

Good work and thanks so very much guys for all the time and energy you put into this day.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Bill Robertson for organizing the singing valentine program this year. He did a great job and I'm sure it was appreciated by all)

Celebrations



Chapter Birthdays

- April 3 Orval Allen
- April 12 Barb Howlett
- April 22 Mary Robertson
- April 28 Hugh McCutcheon

Chapter Anniversaries

- April 6 Bill & Mary Robertson
- April 8 Walt & Lydia DeRuiter
- April 17 Jim & Sylvia McDougall
- May 4 Gord & Mary Vair

WONDERFUL

by Gord Vair

What a great time we had at the Babcock Nursing Home in Wardsville on January 8th.

While we were singing I spent time (don't tell John Gough please) watching faces of folks in our audience. Some were smiling, hey, we even had one leading right up in the front row. Others were mouthing the words of the songs they were familiar with.

I watched one old fella in wheel chair whose face remained impassive though out our presentation. I made it a point to visit with him after. I asked him if he knew any of the songs. It took him a while to respond but I noticed a glimmer in his eye as he said, "Some of them"

Music reaches to the soul and makes an impact even if we can't see it on the outside.

It's great to be able to bring pleasure to people through the medium of music- IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER!

Harold's Angels

by Marilyn McPherson

Spring Show - Mary has given us all a list of the jobs to be done. If anyone needs more information please contact Mary.

Beans - Bags of beans will be available for the Feb. 19th meeting and they will also be available at the show.

Dates to mark on your calendar-

- April 5 - Spring Show
- May 10 - Village Ladies - Sarnia Spring Choral Festival
- May 21st - The Home Interiors sale will be at Jean Brown's in Mt. Brydges. Bring a friend.
- Sept. 25th - Card Party to be held at the United Church, Stathroy. Watch for more information/

Next Meeting - April 16th at Sylvia McDougall's

Chapter Incorporation

(as seen in the Samia Bluenotes- Don Crosbie , Editor).

Chapter incorporation is a certainty for 2003. It is necessary to protect the district/society (ultimately the membership) from major liability resulting from illegal copies of music primarily, but also other areas where large organizations are being sued for wrong doings of its members. The courts have been active in the US with huge millions of dollars awards being won. It will cost our chapter between \$500.00 and \$800.00 for the legal work... about \$50.00 annually after that.

GUESTS



Next Fanfare Deadline:

April 30, 2003.

New e-mail address for Ron & Dianne Carradine.

Please note as of the 21st of March our e-mail address will be 'rondicar@execulink.com'. We are no longer using aol.

Telephone List in your Directory

Please correct the telephone # in your Chapter Directory, membership list, for **Gord Vair** to read as follows:-

245-7555

It's a great Day!

George Shields just phoned to advise that our long awaited charitable license renewal was received by mail today.

Please post a copy of this at your chapter meeting or arrange to advise your chapter members of the good news.

Our charitable license number remains the same as was previously used: 88923 2443 RR0002, and the license has been back dated to take effect as of August 1, 2000.

Our District Vice President Finance Wylie Forster will contact each chapter shortly regarding your applications for GST rebates that you have been holding. Please hold your applications pending instructions from Wylie.

Bruce Dibble, Treasurer
Harmonize For Speech Fund

**Harmonize for
Speech and
Sing-Canada
Foundations have
raised over
\$3,000,000**

The Board's Business



- Gil Craenen and Gord Nisbet are chapter auditors for the year 2002.
- Strathroy chapter to host Western Division Christmas benefit on November 28.
- Chapter President Frank Knoll to select and chair a committee which is to prepare and submit a brief to The Trillium Foundation for funds to assist the chapter.
- Looking for a volunteer to assist Jim McDougall with new member orientation.
- 2003 Christmas party to be held at the Anglican church hall in Strathroy.
- Mission statement updated to reflect changes to charitable component.

District chapter incorporation assistance to be reviewed at upcoming HOD meeting in April.



For transport to Montreal by train. Via Rail has a program straddling the International Convention dates in Montreal -June 30th - July 6th, 2003.
VALID: June 27th to July 10th, 2003
TERRITORY: VIA Rail System Wide to/from Montreal.
RESTRICTIONS: Fare applies to maximum of two passengers per purchase.
DISCOUNT: 35% discount off the full adult economy class minimum fare; 05% discount off the full adult VIA-1 first class and sleepers.
Railways usually quote 1 way fares so in effect the VIA -1 round trip equals 10%.
Not only is this convenient and cost effective but it is also flexible as long as passengers go through Montreal. When booking be sure to state the Convention Promo #10016

Membership

Hello One and All

Well once again it is time for your monthly update regarding Membership Results.

As of Feb 28 2003, our membership total was 1474 members, this is a loss of 5 members over the past year (0.3%) and 30 members over the past quarter. Not a drastic result either way, however I am sure that this can be corrected for a positive result in March.

The recruitment numbers for February were very encouraging as we recruited 14 new/reinstated members for the month. Again this is 33% ahead of last years pace and is at the pace we need for this years annual target.

Chapters credited with New/Reinstated members in February include

- St. Thomas
- Markham
- East York
- Oakville
- Peterborough (2)
- St. Catharines
- Sarnia (2)
- Simcoe (3)
- Owen Sound
- Barrie



Excellent work from everyone listed above, these results are wonderful.

I also want to thank everyone that attended the Membership Summit on March 1. Those that took time out of their busy schedules to try to learn and share their concerns made for a very exciting day. There were 39 members from 16 chapters that discussed many membership concerns including some that were not on the original agenda, which made for some very enthusiastic discussions.

Take care

Rob Arnold

VP Membership Development ON.

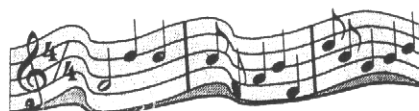
Coming Events

- Sat, April 5, 2003 - Annual Show @ S.C.C.S.
- Wed, April 9, 2003 - Member Guest Night.
- April 11-13, 2003 - Ontario District Spring Competition @ Inn On The Park, Toronto
- Chateau Gardens Parkhill April 23rd, 2003.
- Sun. May 4, 2003 - Cooks United Church Anniversary 11.00 A.M.
- Tuesday, June 17, 2003 - APOC Pep Rally, Mississauga
- June 25-7:30 Country Terrace Nursing Home-Komoka.
- June 29/July 6, 2003 - International Convention, Montreal
- Oct 19-10:30 Forest United Church Anniversary



Opportunity Knocks

In the Society's nearly 65 years, we've had only 2 International Conventions in Canada. Apparently, both were very successful and well attended. There was Toronto in 1963 and Calgary in 1994. There may not be another International Convention in Canada for many years so this is our opportunity to see the Society's international show in Canadian dollars..



The Five Steps Necessary to Produce Quality Tone

by Bud Miller, Music VP, Cherry Hills NJ -- part 2 of 5
submitted by Milt Weisman, editor/publisher, Cherry Hill NJ Tru-Notes

This is the second in a series of lessons concerning the five steps necessary to produce good tone. The first lesson was about body alignment and posture. The subject of this lesson is proper abdominal-costal (A-C) breathing. Abdominal and Costal refer to the muscle groups mainly involved in the breathing process. The diaphragm is also involved and is very important in the process, but it is an involuntary muscle and we can exert no conscious control over it. To use A-C breathing correctly, three things must occur:

1. The chest must be high before you breathe (the body must be properly aligned in the ready position).
2. The rib cage must expand sideways.
3. The abdominal wall must relax as you inhale in order for the diaphragm to descend.

If you will practice with these three things in mind and master them, it is all you really need to know about breathing. Notice that number one is directly related to the first lesson in this series - body alignment and posture. If your mental imagery has been correct and the body aligned, the position of the rib cage will be correct automatically. That is why any study of voice has to start with posture. If the rib cage is not in a high position, it doesn't matter how you breathe; it will ultimately be unsuccessful. Singing with good body alignment is a plus for both singing and visual categories.

You can actually "feel" number 2 when it happens properly. The expansion should take place in the arc of the solar plexus around the lower ribs. Every time you take a breath in rehearsal or a performance, you must breathe deeply enough to expand the lower rib cage. Only in the case of the very short "catch" breath does the air not go deeply enough to fully expand the rib cage.

Number 3 presents the greatest challenge. Learning to relax the abdominal wall while doing breathing and even singing exercises is easy; relaxing under stress of performance is not so easy. The stress and pressure of performance causes many "untrained" singers to shallow breathe.

The automatic lifting action of the abdominal wall, particularly as it tries to support the end of a phrase, and the accompanying tightness of the muscle, creates a situation in which it is easier for the singer to allow the muscle to stay flexed rather than to allow it to relax properly when taking the next breath. This prevents the diaphragm from descending to allow the intake of as much air as usual. The result is that we are now trying to sing the same length phrases as before but with less than half the original air supply. When this happens, everything suffers - tone quality, synchronization and ultimately the overall performance. You must consciously learn to relax the abdominal wall and subsequently take the deep breath in rehearsal. It

will not happen by just talking and thinking about it and then expecting it to be automatic.

Work hard to learn to execute these breathing mechanics correctly in rehearsal (at home and with the chorus). Remember, the real test comes during a live performance. Make sure you are aware of these potential problems as you rehearse. If they are present in rehearsal, you can be sure they will be a problem in performance.

Remember, to become a better singer, you must master the techniques of good quality singing one step at a time. Set personal singing goals and lay out the steps to success. You will benefit, and the entire chorus will become better because of you.



(as seen in The Knight Line)

Strathroy Chapter
 Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA
 Home of the "Vocal Federation"
 The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

Board of Directors (519)

Frank Knoff.....	...President.....	264-2856
Jim McDougall....	...Past President.....	245-0843
Orval Allen.....	...Secretary.....	246-1234
Les Campbell.....	...Treasurer.....	245-0359
Bob Fennell.....	...V.P. Chapter Devel.....	693-4280
John Gough.....	...V.P. Music.....	264-1031
John King.....	...V.P. Communications.....	245-0762
Bill Gough.....	...V.P. Program.....	245-2244
Arnold Dixon.....	...V.P. Performance.....	294-0128
Roswell McPherson..	...Board Member at Large....	245-1711
Bill Robertson.....	...Board Member at Large....	245-0979

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Attendance Recorder	Hugh McCutcheon
Historian	Emie McEwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Jim McDougall
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Bill Robertson
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Orval Allan
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	John King
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

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

Section Leaders

Tenor - Emie 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.*



P . R . O . B . E .

The Fraternity of
 PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS.

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

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.

The Federation's
Fanfare

Editor - John F. King

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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

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