



Canton Ohio



June-July 2004

Squawker

Chapter Motto
"Enrich & Grow"

Hall of Fame Chorus

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DREAM TEAM BECOMING REALITY!

On May 19, Dr. Ben Ayling joined the Hall of Fame Chorus as our new musical leader, and already the sparks of great excitement and anticipation of things to come are palpable in our rehearsal hall. Former director and retiring Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn will be back among us this summer, and Associate Director Larry White is, as always, lending his capable helping hands, to round out our Dream Team.

Ben has jumped right in and become one of our HOF family, and has some exciting new ideas for the chorus. His reputation is legendary: he holds a Ph.D in Music, is a Professor of Music at Kent State University, and is the bass of the retiring 1991 International Champion quartet, The Ritz. He's also personable, approachable, and a really nice guy.

With Ben, Darryl, and Larry as our Directing Dream Team, who knows how far the Hall of Fame Chorus can go? The rest is up to US, the members and singers, to bring our chorus up to the

singing level we all know we're capable of achieving. If you've been waiting in the wings to see what's going to happen in the Hall of Fame Chorus, your wait is over! It's happening NOW! Come and join us as we soar to new heights as a chorus, and have more fun doing it than ever before!

2004 Chapter Board

President.....	Phil Downey
Past President.....	Jesse Pittman
PVP.....	Dave Richards
Music VP.....	Jerry Hughes
VP Chapter Development.....	Larry White
Treasurer.....	Jake Mandator
Secretary.....	Jake Mandator
Board Members At Large:.....	
Chorus Manager.....	Joe Fraley
Uniform Chairman.....	Dan Hughes
PR Officer.....	Don Shoop
Harmony Foundation.....	George Macli

Apple Corps 2004

Thursday evening June 17th through Saturday night, the 20th will prove to be both very educational and exciting. This year we have **Classic Collection** as our showcase quartet and the one and only **R.D. Mathey** as our dean of the school.

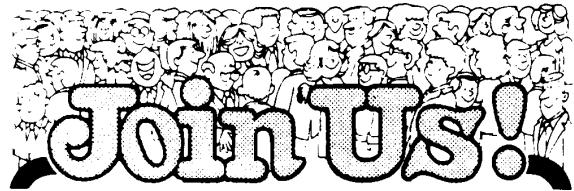
Under **R.D.** will be an assembly of some of the finest coaches and instructors that the Society has to offer and most of them from our own great **Johnny Appleseed District**. Take a glance at this list.....**Mark Blake, Frank Buffington, Dave Calland, Carl Cash, Mike Connelly, Neale Connor, Bari Courts Al Downey, Darryl Flinn, Tom Hawkins, Lance Heilmann, Steve Kovach, Skipp Kropp, Don Loose, R.D. Mathey, Brody McDonald, Bill Miller, R.F. Miller, Bob Moorehead, Rod Nixon, Steve Patrick, David Pratt, Bill Ray, Frank Riddick, Kirk Roose, Dave Rubin, Dan Smith Jr., Greg Swann, Chuck Watson and Larry White.** Still more may be added. Along with other new classes there will be a **THREE CHORUS EXTRAVAGANZA** that **R.D. Mathey** has put together that is sure to be a fun and exciting event.

This year Apple Corps is going to take on a new look as far as the general location of buildings. We will no longer use KC Hall, our old landmark for registration. KC Hall as we know it, has been remodeled and is now a Cafe. Hill Hall will be our new *Registration* and **Barbershop Store (run by our own Jake Mandator)** for this year. It is located next to Pierce Hall, our original dining hall. BTW, we have returned to Pierce Hall for meals. Mather and McBride dorms are under construction this summer and that forces us to move to the North side of the campus on the far side of Ascensions Hall (the great quartet home). Our new location will be more centralized, which means less walking from one place to another. Even though the dining facility and other buildings will be air conditioned, the dorms will not be. You might want to

bring a fan. I understand the move is for this year only.

You won't want to miss a single moment! Plan now to attend.

Squawker Deadline August 1, 2004



We're having lots of fun!

HOF Calendar of Events	
Ralph Shonk Celebration	June 4
Windsor Sing Out.....	Jun 16
Annual Picnic	July 18
Gospel Show	August 28
Division Contest.....	September 17-18
District Contest	October 15-17
Amish Door.....	October 30
Canton Symphony Show	December 12
Chapter Board Meeting... 1 st Tuesday @ 7 PM	
MAC Meeting	2 nd Wednesday @ 6 PM

Attention Bulletin Recipients!

If your mailing address has changed, please write to
 Dave Richards / 6029 Hanna Rd / Ravenna OH
 44266-8534 / e-mail drichards1@neo.r.com or
 Call: 330-296-6644

We Remember Ralph Shonk



Ralph Edward Shonk went home to be with the Lord on May 21st at noon. He was admitted to Aultman Hospital on Wednesday, and having waged a seven year battle with lung cancer, mercifully lost the

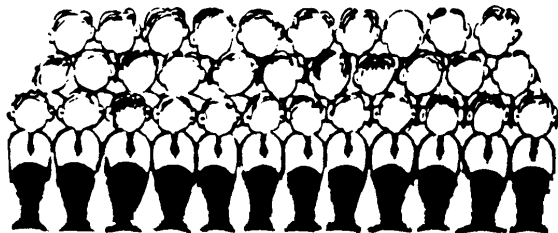
fight.

I know I speak for all who knew him, that he was a quiet, friendly man of great conviction. He loved his family, his barbershop music, barbershop friends, and as he said many times, if it hadn't been for his years of singing, he would have lost this fight long ago. INDEED! HE WAS A FIGHTER.

God bless Ralph Shonk, and may his time with us forever live in our memory,

For those chapter members who did not know Ralph when we was healthy and vital, I would tell you that you missed a treat. Ralph has sung in a number of HOFc quartets, has been a Seniors Quartet Champion (Silver Tones), has been a soloist for our chorus and because of his quiet and unassuming personality and his monstrous bass voice, Ralph became well known among JAD barbershoppers as a man's man and a bass's bass.

If you chapter members wish to remember Ralph by a gift to Harmony Foundation, send your check to Harmony Foundation at Society HQ; 7930 Sheridan Rd; Kenosha, WI 53143.



A bash celebrating Ralph's life will be held on June 4th from 6 pm to 11 pm at the Tadmoo Temple grounds south of Akron near Arlington Road and I-77. All barbershoppers and their wives or sweethearts are welcome to attend. There will be food and lots of good singing.



BIRTHDAYS

- Bob McCullough June 07
- Allen Hanft June 08
- Bob Friedmann June 22
- David Royer June 22
- Jack Merzweiler June 26
- George Alcorn June 30
- Augie Bennett July 14
- Bob Reidenbach July 15
- Ron Roe July 29
- Darryl Flinn August 03

ANNIVERSARIES

- Carolyn & Bob Reidenbach June 06
- Teresa & Mark Isler June 13
- Pat & George Fram June 14
- Wilma & Sam Love June 15
- Carol & Don Isler June 15
- Loretta & Ernie Jackson June 19
- Janet & Don Hershberger June 21
- Barbara & David Royer June 21
- Sheila & Tim Billheimer June 26
- Joannae & Robert Steinfurth July 01
- Georgia & Virgil Hiller July 13
- Arlene & Don Sprankle July 28
- Kathy & Bob Daum August 01



The Prez Sez!

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I am announcing Dr. Ben Ayling as the director of the Hall of Fame Chorus. Ben will officially began Wednesday, May 19th. We all know him as the bass in the International Champion Quartet, The Ritz. In addition to his accomplishments, credentials, and education he is a fine gentleman with a burning desire to perfect the art of barbershop singing in every member of and take The Hall of Fame Chorus to yet another plateau of singing accomplishment and membership rejuvenation.

Ben will be assisted by our great friends and brothers in harmony Darryl Flinn and Larry White. Darryl needs no introduction regarding his tremendous background in barbershopping and association with our chorus, the society, and his friendship to each and everyone of us. Larry did an outstanding job as our interim director utilizing his experience as chorus leader and membership vice president.

Letters From Performance Lovers

Janine Meier said:

I just wanted to let you know how much my husband, friends and I enjoyed your show this year. We have been attending the programs for many years and this year was one of the best.

In thinking about this program in comparison to other years, we have decided the comedy was what made it extra special.

The way life is today, it was great to have good clean fun and laughter. This



was something we needed and others did also, The Hot Air Buffoons were outstanding. We all love a good laugh.

Keep up the good work and always add humor.

Pastor Ken Weaver says:

On behalf of the Phil Keene family and myself, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Hall of Fame Barbershop Chorus. Your performance on Sunday evening was awesome. Your willingness to allow all of the proceeds to go to the benefit, and to even contribute part of the CD sales money, was such a blessing. Thanks to your participation, we were able to present a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Phil. May God bless each of you with continued good health.

How to be a great bass

Some bass singing tips from champ Bill Meyers.

submitted by Bill Myers, bass of Revival, 1998 International Champions

The bass singer delivers the essence and character of the barbershop sound. I just love to sing along with recordings featuring good, quality bass singers and from there develop my own style of singing bass. It's fun and you learn a lot from the experts. You learn how to sing intervals with ease and accuracy, how to balance chords and how to sing with

quality all up and down the scale. Why wouldn't any bass singer want to sing along every day with the best we have? It's difficult to pin down just three of my favorite barbershop bass singers, but here's a start. These three are also genuinely nice guys and fun Barbershoppers to be around. What a wonderful combination!

Jim Henry - Here's a guy who puts more of his personality in the music he creates than any other barbershop bass I know. I respect his commitment to a quality sound all up and down the scale. Jim gives enough of his ego away to complement his quartet with just enough sound to blend and match to perfection. Yet his dominant bass color is always evident when The Gas House Gang (1993 champion) sings. I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Don Barnick - Really not a bass singer, by his own admission, but probably the very best at making the vocal apparatus work for the job; he was a gold medal tenor with Grandma's Boys in 1979. However, using all of his resonators, Don was able to command the rich, quality, up-front ping in the bass sound all up and down the scale with the 1992 international champion Keepsake. You will not find a finer example of one using what the good Lord gave him to work in his favor. I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Rick Staab - One of the all-time greats. Here's a guy who was born with a golden bass voice. He'll be the first to tell you, "It was a gift from above." I think he sang a bad note once in 1977. Not sure which note it was, but at least one. Always, always, with quality and

richness, always resonant, always accurate. Just the kind of bass singer most leads pray for. His voice was made to order for the legendary 1978 champion Bluegrass Student Union. Ah, I remember them well! I sing bass with him by tape every day.

Bill's ten tips for better bass singing:

- Sing every note with a quality sound
- Sing with full face vowels
- Sing every day
- Vertical "Ahh" on the inside of every vowel
- Every five seconds, energize
- Get a coach
- Step into the picture the lyric creates
- Sing on top of the air
- Resonant, warm spin in the sound
- Always be working on a new song

Bill Myers teaches "How To Be A Great Bass" at Harmony College.

Improve your voice between rehearsals

Non-rehearsal activities for voice, body and mind

Improve your voice

By Jim Emery, Great Northern Union vocal coach, Singing Judge candidate

Your Voice

Sing every day, even a little. Even five minutes per day is better than marathon rehearsals once a week.

Breathe correctly and with good posture when you speak. You'll avoid chronic voice fatigue and be in your best voice when you come to an evening rehearsal or performance. And remember, you can't breathe correctly when you're slumped in your chair at the office.

Speak in the right pitch and vary your pitch. Most men speak too low because we believe a low voice sounds authoritative. On the contrary, a well-supported, free, and resonant voice is the most authoritative, regardless of its pitch. Varying pitch is also good for the voice and for keeping the attention of the listener.

Your Body

Drink a lot of water. Water is the best medicine for a sick or healthy voice. To see why, rub your dry hands together, then get them wet and try it again. The same thing happens with your vocal cords and body hydration keeps the vocal cords moist and flexible. But don't only drink a lot on the day of a big performance; your body hydration level must be built up gradually. Increase the water you drink every day and you'll be ready to sing any time. Avoid drinking too many caffeinated or alcoholic drinks, as they dehydrate your system.

Don't smoke. Smoke inhaled from a cigarette is around 400 degrees F, which would burn your skin. Imagine what regular exposure to such hot, dry air does over time to your vocal cords, which are some of the most sensitive tissues in your body.

Exercise your whole body. The voice can't do anything that the body can't sustain. Regular physical exercise is just as helpful as regular singing.

Get plenty of rest. Athletes don't perform well without rest and, for the same reasons, neither do singers.

Your Mind

Learn how to relax. Tension has the potential to reduce your effectiveness as a singer. It isn't enough to tell yourself to relax -- you have to know how. There are many relaxation techniques, including yoga, meditation, and others. If practiced regularly, most can be drawn upon to help you relax when you are under the stress of an important performance. Find a technique that works for you and practice it.

Rehearse mentally every chance you get. The voice responds sympathetically to silent mental rehearsal. If you'd like to rehearse but you're somewhere where singing isn't appropriate, rehearse in your head. The vocal mechanism actually flexes in sympathetic response. Try it! It works.

Listen to good singers, both recorded and live. Most golfers have noticed that they play better when they play with and watch better players. The same is true for singers. But listen to the best. Your subconscious will imitate what it hears.

Take voice lessons. If you can afford the time and expense, consider taking voice lessons. Even 30 minutes a week with a good instructor will give you encouragement and will help improve your singing more rapidly.