



Canton Ohio



January 2004

Squawker

Chapter Motto
Enrich & Grow"

Hall of Fame Chorus

EDITORS: Dave & Barb Richards 6029 Hanna Rd Ravenna OH 44266-8534 Squawker Volume 5 Issue 3 January 18, 2004

SINGING VALENTINES A SUCCESS!

Soon all the preparation and hard work for our annual show will be a memory as will our time spent with Mark Stock as our director. I for one will miss his determination to get it right. We are singing better than ever and while we've all made an effort to improve our performance of the music, Mark has been the driving force. I hate to think very long about what we are losing as he goes on to other ventures. We are losing an opportunity for greatness. I wish Mark well and I hope that all of you join me in that. I also hope that we are fortunate enough to get a new director who will not accept anything less than perfection in singing. Someday, I'd like to be on the international stage again, this time as a competitor. Last time, I was just in the mic testing chorus and the thrill of that made me hungry for more.

SINGING VALENTINES

As you may know, the men who performed singing valentines raised over \$1,000 of needed funds for the chapter's treasury. And they all had a great time doing it. If you weren't there on February 18th you missed out on the great stories about their efforts. Not a bad showing for deciding in January that we should go for it. Some chapters make many thousands of dollars and have many more quartets singing than we did this year. It's not too soon to start thinking about who you want to sing with next year and get your quartet together now. We could do many more valentines next year since we'll be announcing the program earlier. And who knows? If you get a quartet together now, you might even get to perform somewhere with the chorus before 2005.

Squawker Deadline May 1, 2004

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

New Place - New look - New Attitude

On March 10 - 2004, the Canton Hall Of Fame Chorus took its first steps to becoming a new chorus. We now have a new home at the Westbrook United Methodist Church. Come check it out.

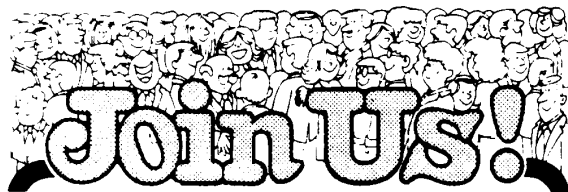
As the V.P. of Chapter Development, I am pleased to welcome to our chorus the newest members Todd Boyle, Stan Wallace, and John Barcus. These three bring a fresh new look and sound to the HOF.

As part of the music team, along with Phil Downey, Jerry Hughes, Russ McQuate, Jake Mandator, and Mike Pilat, I had the pleasure of attending the new Music Man program presented by R. D. Mathey and his fine team. This was held the weekend of February 27 -28 in Columbus. While there, we learned how to keep a pace going at rehearsals, how to correct flat singing, and how to keep rehearsal just a little bit more fun for everyone. If you haven't noticed, the techniques I have been using in the past two rehearsals are the results of the Music Man program. I hope everyone will climb on board and help apply these new methods at each rehearsal. There is still more to come. I am not polished at this new music man program yet but I will be more adamant about using all of these skills at chapter meetings in the future. It will take some time to get used to the new concept but I know we can do it together. Time and patience are the key elements we have to consider.

If you have been staying away from the chapter for one reason or another, I urge you to come and be a part of the new attitude. If you have been coming to meetings, I urge you to catch the fever that the people who attended the Music Man program have caught. We will all have more fun and improve the quality of the chorus thanks to Music Man. To do this on a consistent basis, the music team needs each singer to learn his music. It is the responsibility of each of us to learn at home or wherever and polish sound and movement at the rehearsal. Remember, we are getting a new positive attitude towards singing better and smarter. Speaking of new, we are currently in the process of interviewing a new musical director. If this person decides to come on board, I say look out world here we come!

So come to the Canton Hall of Fame Chorus with a new outlook, a new attitude and be full of positive energy.

Larry White



We're having lots of fun!

HOF Calendar of Events

Annual Show	April 3
Guest Night.....	April 14
Preliminary Contest	April 16-18
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 d Richards1@neo.rr.com or
 Call: 330-296-6644

Here is the order of songs for our April show:

Chorus

McNamara's Band

If There's Never Been An Ireland

My Wild Irish Rose (Don Gray)

Quartet • Twilight

It's the Same Old Shillelagh

Chorus

That's An Irish Lullaby

Audience Sing-a-long

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

Sweet Rosie O'Grady

Harrigan

Chorus

Finian's Rainbow Medley

I'll take You Home Again Kathleen

VLQ

Clancy Lowered The Boom

Chorus

Danny Boy

I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover

I'll Be Seeing You

Irish Blessing

List Provided by: Russ McQuate



BIRTHDAYS

Kent Thompson.....	April 09
Mike Zastawny.....	April 09
Steven Blau.....	April 20
Ralph Shonk.....	April 24
Todd Boyle.....	April 28
Don Sprankle.....	May 01
Art Boring.....	May 02
Rick Middaugh.....	May 08
Tom Remark.....	May 09
Dan Shilling.....	May 11
Tim Billheimer.....	May 12
Bob Binkley.....	May 19
Mark Isler.....	May 23
Tom Gentry.....	May 23
Denny Price.....	May 30
Harlan Sussman.....	May 31

ANNIVERSARIES

Robyn & Kent Thompson.....	04/07/90
Donna & Dick Dudash.....	04/24/87
Nancy & Herb Shreffler.....	04/20/68
Linda & Bob Friedmann.....	05/05/68
Bev & Bill Ray.....	05/17/85
Judy & Dick Heddleson.....	05/25/68
Pat & Jake Mandator.....	05/27 /95



THE VIEW FROM THE CORNER

By Barb

With all the preparations for our show on April 3, we still have to keep in mind another important date for our chapter: Guest Night on April 14. While we hope to attract some of our show

audience as guests that night, wouldn't it be wonderful if every active member of the Hall of Fame Chorus brought just ONE guest? Think of how many potential new members that is!

While you're thinking about Guest Night and preparing your list of men you're going to invite, be sure to read the cover article in the current *HARMONIZER*, about how to treat (and not treat) a guest once you get him there.

By the way, are you going to Louisville? It will be a great International, and even before all the Prelims scores are in, we can see that the quartet contest will be fantastic. Louisville is within driving distance, so if you've never been to International, this is a great opportunity. We hope to see you there!

AND...speaking of Prelims! The Johnny Appleseed District Prelims are the weekend of April 17 and 18 in Columbus. Plan to attend and cheer for our quartets who attempt to qualify for Louisville, as well as hearing an exciting high school quartet contest with up to 16 quartets! This is the future of barbershopping, and (I have to get this in here) the Young Men In Harmony VP for JAD has been working very hard to make this happen.

Cabaret 2004

Our 2004 Cabaret held February 21st at the K of C Hall in North Canton was great fun. We were joined by some terrific quartets, Harmony Supply Line, Twilight and Guys and Dolls. The only quartet our director didn't sing in was Harmony Supply Line and that was probably because he didn't know the songs! Seriously, all of the singers were wonderful. The humor was great and everyone there seemed to have enjoyed themselves. All of the feedback I heard was quite positive. I'm already looking forward to next year's cabaret with a new director in a different facility. The K of C hall is just plain too darned expensive. On the following page are some pictures:



Working in the Kitchen



Harmony Supply Line and HOF



Nearly Sell Out Crowd



Guys and Dolls Hamming it up



Twilight Schmoozing the Audience

20 more reasons to sing in a quartet

Grant Carson sings in several quartets. He has a short list of the virtues....

1. It's fun.
2. You have total responsibility for your part, not the responsibility for the other guys in the chorus section.
3. You can really ring chords! Yes, choruses can produce overtones, but not the lock and ring of a quartet.
4. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee to decide what you're going to sing.
5. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee to decide for whom you're going to sing.
6. You don't have to go through a board of directors or a music committee for any other darn thing, like moves and such.
7. Yet, if you get good, the chapter will ask you to sing on the show.

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8. 8. If you're good enough to sing on the show, your family and friends will be more adoring than if you simply sang in the chorus.
 9. Your section has unison sound! :)
 10. You don't have to watch a chorus director.
 11. You don't have to pander to a chorus director, or look to him or her for inspiration, and all the other things choruses must do with chorus directors.
 12. You learn more about blend and balance from playing a tape recording of your quartet than you could ever from a chorus director.
 13. If you also are a member of a chorus, then you make the chorus better for having learned to sing in a quartet.
 14. You don't have to be a member of a chorus if that's your preference.
 15. You'll be popular with the Singing Valentines Chairman.
 16. You'll sing Valentines very well.
 17. Resolving decisions about when, where and what the quartet will sing only requires convincing the tenor. :)
 18. The other three singers take delight in the responsibility of keeping the baritone in only three dimensions. :)
 19. You get to choose your quartet costume. (After convincing the tenor, of course.)
 20. You get three really good friends.
- That's only 20. My quartet-preferable friends on the harmonet will probably add several. And my chorus-preferable friends will probably castigate. Well, so let it be.

I love quartets,
Grant Carson

15 ways to build quartet singing in your chapter

Travellin' man and quartet pickup singer Ray Scroggins tells what he's found in chapters throughout the Society.

Want to increase quartet singing at your chapter? Consider this. Just as you come back to work refreshed after a vacation, members can relieve the tensions and fatigue that develop when working hard for a contest or show. Make quartet singing a regular part of your chapter program, and you'll see other benefits as well. By learning to carry their part alone in a quartet, the more tentative singers can improve their confidence, as well as their ear and tuning ability. Seeing and hearing more quartet singing

by their fellow members at all levels will help convince those interested but unsure of their abilities that quartet singing can be for everyone, not only for those with the time, talent and interest in competing or singing a busy show schedule. Membership retention may also improve, as those looking for other ways to express themselves find new avenues for their enthusiasm by singing a few songs or tags with a pickup quartet.

Like most of you, I'm just an average Joe Barbershopper who likes to sing. In the many years I've been a Society member, I've been fortunate to visit a lot of chapters as my business takes me all over the U.S. and occasionally into Canada. Here, in no particular order, are some of the ways I've found that chapters are promoting quartet singing, both formally and informally.

Start with octets

After break or at the end of rehearsal, pick a couple of octets out of the chorus and have them sing a chorus or other song. Also assign an octet to practice a song for the program next week.

Build from the chorus songs

If some (or many) members don't know a lot of songs, use something from the chorus repertoire to get quartets started. Then encourage them to learn a new song and present it in a couple of weeks.

Get everyone in the act for Singing Valentines

The songs are simple and limited in number. If a Valentine quartet hits it off, they may stick together, or some members may enjoy it enough to put their own foursome together.

Get together with other chapters

In your Division, host periodic Quartet Formation classes where coaches try to match up interested parties with similar voices and abilities.

Try a "Mystery Verse" contest

Have pickup quartets get together to tape themselves singing the verse of a song, then playing it and letting the chapter try to guess the song, and maybe the participants. Or just have the quartet sing it for the chapter if they prefer.

Make the time

Every chapter (and every member) has loads of commitment, but sometimes you just have to make time. After several years of focusing almost entirely on the drive for perfection, one chapter started spending two hours rehearsing

and saving the last hour for fun. The last time I was there, they broke into three groups for the final hour; one to work further on the chorus numbers, one for newer members to learn more of what barbershopping is really all about, and a third to do some informal quartet singing. Do it early in the evening, in the middle or late, but do it!

Sing with the Champs

When a District Champion or other high-level quartet visits your chapter, ask if they will let some of the chorus members step in and sing a song with them. Hold a drawing if necessary to keep it from lasting all night.

Training Wheels (Old & New)

As a variation of the above, have “new” quartet people work with existing quartets as coaches or together as an octet to build confidence and “learn the ropes.” Let the experts “help” as needed, until the newer members can carry their parts.

Pick a Polecat

Build a program around pickup quartets by singing Barber Polecat songs to ensure that most members know them. Start a class a half hour before rehearsals for new members and those who still don’t know them.

Line up the chorus by parts

Put a quartet at the head of the line and sing a chorus or other familiar number; then have the director signal when to change quartets. The former first row can be “recycled” by sending them to the back of the line, especially when a voice part is in short supply.

Teach a Tag

Tags are an excellent way to try quartet singing, not too long but with good ringing chords. Almost everyone can experience the thrill of ringing a chord with three other guys for a few bars. Give the chorus a tag a week, have members make their own learning tapes, then have pickup quartets sing them the next week. Encourage the shy types to get together after rehearsal for a few minutes if they don’t want to stand in front of the group.

Johnny One-Note

Use one-note tags to get new members or the less-confident started. (Example: “Behind”). There are one-note tags for each voice part. Then move into other tags and short or familiar songs as confidence builds.

Pot Luck

Have all those who want to sing in a quartet that evening put their name tags in boxes by voice part. Pick one (or more) quartets at random for

the evening’s entertainment, before break time so they can get together on a song or two.

Sectional Challenge

Stretch your vocal experience by having one section challenge another to a quartet “contest.” Use tags to keep it short and easy to learn other parts if you wish. In one chapter recently, the baritones challenged the basses, and all had a great time testing their own limits. Non-singing sections can be the “judges.”

Keep the “glow” alive

Some of the best singing fun comes from the spontaneous chords that ring when four guys get together in a corner after chorus rehearsal. If most members leave as soon as chorus rehearsal is over, they miss this “frosting on the cake.” If you don’t have a rehearsal place where members can stick around, find a friendly afterglow location where you can sing. Back rooms at pizza places or other restaurants and bistros that are still open but past their peak hours may welcome the business. Avoid places that won’t turn off jukeboxes and TVs, or no singing will take place.

Don’t forget, though, that some members may not want to sing in a quartet. Others may be too shy or lack the confidence to stand in front of the chorus and perform, although they might be comfortable singing in the corner with three other guys after rehearsal. Never force anyone to sing in a quartet, but create a climate and build quartet singing opportunities into your chapter programs whenever you can. You and your chapter both will be the richer for it.

A Note From Our Music Librarians

Someone has borrowed one of the HOF guest books. If you are using it at home, there is no need to do that. There is plenty of music for everyone in the music files. See Fr. Joe or Larry Steele and ask them to get you what you need. There are only 5 guest books and we need to keep them together at our new practice place, for guests and guest nights. They are more valuable than gold, as they are in short supply. Thanks. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.