

2005 ACES Concert

Sunday, March 6, 2005 the Melody Men joined nearly 100 students from sixteen Elementary schools throughout Miami County for the ACES concert. This was the third annual concert started with the "Get American Singing ... Again!" songbook project. This year we were privileged to go on stage at the new Tipp City High School. What a place to sing.

There are so many people to thank for helping make this day a reality. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of all of the Miami County Elementary Music Educators who prepared their respective students for this event. It is proper to acknowledge the support of the chapter members who were able to take time out of their busy schedules to participate. I believe they were rewarded by the experience. There are a few special people I would like to acknowledge although I know that in doing so I run the risk of "missing" someone.

Susie Harris was our coordinator this year. She had to pick it up when Sharon Pfister developed a medical condition that prevented her from taking the planning she had started to a stage presentation. Susan really worked hard on this project for the students of Miami County.

MUSINGS

By Dick Baker



I had the great fun to sing with Noteability Quartet during the Valentines Day deliveries. Their lead, Brian Phillips, was ill at the last minute and could not perform. Ron Venture, the coordinator, called on the Friday before in a panic and asked if I would fill in. I spent the next 2 days carefully stretching my vocal range to avoid damaging my cords and getting hoarse.

We were able to fulfill 12 contracts that day. By singing the 2 or 3 programmed songs only and having a 45 minute break between them, I was able to complete the day without casualty.

The great fun came later when we all met at the Cracker Barrel in Piqua to wind down, grab a bite and enjoy some camaraderie. Several wives joined the group, also. We did some gang singing to the delight of the other patrons and management. Watching the faces of the singers and listening to the varied conversations and laughter told me just how much we enjoy each other.

We all have a great deal of fun together. Our chapter has many varied activities that help bond the members together. We sing in roughly 18 to

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Bruce Swank of Northmont Schools Directs ACES Chorus

ACES continued from page 1

Bruce Swank was the guest conductor from the Northmont School system and he continued the tradition of taking nearly 100 students and molding them into an ensemble in just two hours. Again, the ACES chorus did a fabulous job.

Tim Parmenter did not get to participate on stage this year but behind the scene, he was as involved as ever. Again we were able to provide the families and friends of the youngsters a quality program, that some may have as a keepsake for years to come.

Please mark Sunday, March 6, 2006 on your calendar. Although the Board needs to approve our attendance, I can report that our good friend Kathy McIntosh, Troy City Schools, has suggested that as the date for next year. Many things have to be worked out for this to become a reality but as you know I like long range planning.

Musings continued from page 1

20 churches each summer, do performances in the community, sponsor and support music programs in the local public schools (ACES), compete in Society contests, have a 2 day annual show and our 5 quartets are very active in the community at large. There is a depth of feeling and a wealth of emotions within our bunch that bind us together. I hope we continue to grow and still keep that connection we have.



Don, Paul, Brent, and Tom form our newest chapter quartet,
The Varsity Tag

Subject: Fifth Annual Southern California Young Men's Harmony Festival

The five-time international chorus champion Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association will once again co-sponsor a Young Men's Barbershop Harmony Festival on Saturday, February 19, 2005. The event will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif. Over 260 young men from senior and junior high schools throughout Southern California have already registered for this unique musical experience, and they will rehearse and perform several songs in the barbershop style. A large number of choral music educators will also be attending the entire event to learn more about the barbershop style and how to use it to attract more young men into their choral programs.

The festival will begin at 10 a.m. with an all-day clinic and rehearsal. The day will culminate with a public performance at 7:30pm by the young men, guest quartets Men-So Forte, O.C. Times and Hi-Fidelity, and the Masters of Harmony, followed by a combined finale with all performers together on stage. Proceeds from the show will be used to support choral music education programs in Southern California schools.

Come see the next generation of "barbershoppers-in-training" as they learn the joys of ringing a chord in one of the largest choral ensembles ever assembled. Show tickets are \$5.00 for general admission and are available in advance and at the door. For tickets or more information, please contact me at the e-mail address below or visit:
<http://www.mastersofharmony.org> or
<http://www.sevachoral.org>

Mark Freedkin
YMIH Chairman, Masters of Harmony
Southern California Regional YMIH Coordinator
e-mail: Mark.Freedkin@quantum.com

Bring A Friend Tuesday Evening

Every Tuesday is Guest Night!!

Sol-to-Sol, Do-to-Do, & Woodshedding

The good Duane Johnson wrote, in part:

If you have access to The Barbershop Arrangers Manual published in 1980, ... it says that “do to do” songs tend to have [a] tenor part which is more baritone-like in character, while “sol to sol” songs have the tenor frequently voiced a 10th above the bass, which has a more customary barbershop sound.

This is true. Compare the first three Bari notes of the Society arrangements of “Down Our Way” with the first four Tenor notes of “Sweet & Lovely (That’s What You Are to Me)” to see this exemplified. In “Sweet & Lovely,” the Tenor part resembles a Baritone PATTERN in Tenor range, and the Bari part resembles a Tenor PATTERN in Baritone range.

AHSOW recommends that beginning woodshedders stick with melodies originally written in B-flat or A-flat rather than E-flat (and often F, and sometimes G). This is for the ease of those new to the fun and important art of ear harmonizing.

And, even if a melody is WRITTEN in (say) B-flat, woodshedders are free to pitch things where the singing is comfortable. A melody originally in B-flat may often be pitched as low as G or as high as C, depending on the singers involved.

And, be sure to take a strong, ringing tune-up chord AND first chord of whatever melody you’re planning to harmonize. As Earl Moon said, “the purpose of woodshedding is to ring chords, not to sing songs.”

Melody-singers waste everyone’s time when they haul off and start singing a melody without ensuring that everyone else is tuned up and ready to ring chords. This is not Authentic Woodshedding at all; it’s merely bad singing.

Hints like these can really help new Barbershoppers gain comfort with the beating heart of Barbershopping, which is woodshedding.

The “AHSOW Ear-rangement #1 package” and the “Discovery-Singing folio” are two materials to help your chapter improve and have fun. See <http://www.ahsow.org> to get them.



To: Johnny Appleseed District Chapters

From: Skipp Kropp, VP-Events

Date: February 14, 2005

Re: JAD Quartet Preliminary and Small Chorus Contest and Convention Weekend, April 15-17, 2005

Gentlemen:

You say you don't compete because you don't want to come in last? You say you don't compete because not all of your guys are interested so they won't all show up? You say you don't compete because you don't want to see your score on a score sheet? But you do want to sing better so your members will have more fun at rehearsal, you'll get more singouts, generate more revenues, your Treasurer will have something to do with his time, and you can replace all those striped vests that are four sizes too small for everyone? Well, has your JAD Convention Team got a deal for you!

This year, we're offering ALL choruses the opportunity to be mic testers for the JAD Small Chorus contest on April 16. Yup, multiple mic testers. And while we're hopeful that one of your Chapter objectives and activities is to enter the Small Chorus Contest, this year you can participate as a mic tester and still get a score that ONLY YOU will see! That's right, your score will be shown to you only and will not be published unless you compete but you'll STILL get the benefit of the tremendous coaching talent at the contest in the form of an evaluation session immediately following the contest. Any Chapter with 40 members or less as of the previous October 31 is eligible to either compete in this contest and any chorus in JAD, regardless of size, can be a mic tester. Our records indicate that your Chapter qualifies to participate as either a mic tester or a competitor! Plus... if your Chorus wins the Small Chorus Contest you will qualify to directly enter the District Chorus Contest next October, thus by-passing the Divisional Contests in September.

The Small Chorus Contest will be held at Thomas Worthington High School, 300 W Granville Road (Rt 161), Worthington, Ohio, on April 16 at 11:00 a.m. In addition to the chorus contest, there will be other competitions at the Spring Prelims Convention. Quartets will compete on Friday night with the Finals on Saturday night. Also on the program with you on Saturday afternoon will be the Collegiate and High School Quartet Contests. In addition, the Finals Saturday night will include presentations by the 2004 Buckeye Harmony Camp Reunion Chorus! The good news is: your competitor ticket is good for all events, so come and enjoy the whole weekend. And even if you don't want to compete, where else can you hear International chorus and quartet sounds for only \$16 (all events chorus registration price)?

All chorus registrations must be made by going to the JAD website (www.singjad.com) and registering electronically.

The housing form is in the Cider Press. Headquarters will be the Radisson Hotel, 7007 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43085. The phone number is 614-436-0700. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Johnny Appleseed group to get the \$57 room rate. Please speak to your Board and Chorus Director about the benefits of either entering competition or participating as a mic tester chorus. You may even want to ask your Chapter Coach or District Advisor for advice on the matter. Then just go to www.singjad.com, register on line, and send your registration fee to C & J V-P, Jim Ramsey, 3440 Wellston Place, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45208-2548.

Your Convention Team will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about any of the details for the weekend. Please give me a call (304-340-1199) at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing YOU on Saturday April 16 and to helping you get invaluable coaching so that 2005 will be the most successful in your chapter's history!

cc: Mark Blake, District President
Don Winterhalter, District Treasurer
Ken Stevens, District Secretary
Jim Ramsey, C & J, V-P
Convention Team

I have been a fan of Ev Nau for some time although we have never met. It seems to me that he always provides an insightful point of view on almost any topic, but especially when talking about our hobby. ... Dale

From: "Ev Nau" <ENau@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Society to grow????

First of all, welcome back. You have posed some interesting thoughts, John. But . . .

When did the Society consciously decide that the only way barbershop harmony could be any fun is when there is an audience to hear and enjoy it? What do we tell those guys who sing for the sheer enjoyment of it and couldn't care less what an audience thinks about their music? Is there no room in our Society for them? Go to any convention and you'll see the guys I mean. They just stick themselves in a corner somewhere and sing all night because THEY enjoy it . . . and that has merit, too, doesn't it?

Don't get me wrong . . . as a presentation judge and a guy who made his living showing Barbershoppers how to perform better, I believe that those who choose to sing in public or for the public need to remember that fun for their audience may not be the same as fun for four guys just singing for the sheer joy of it. But let's not forget that the Society adopted a Lifeblood philosophy a few years ago which stated, "Every man in his own way should experience the joy of hearing his own voice contribute to barbershop harmony." That's a great thought, isn't it? The beauty of it is that it does not necessarily depend upon whether an audience approves or not. We need common sense to prevail, not just opinion expressed about what should and shouldn't be sung because it might not be entertaining.

I'm also curious to learn whoever determined for sure that ALL young singers want new music or ALL young singers will sing anything you put in front of them? We often trick ourselves into believing what our own voices say without an awful lot of supporting documentation. I can tell you stories of teaching young guys to sing "Coney Island Baby" where they couldn't get enough of it . . . and other tales about guys who just rolled their eyes and looked at the clock, hoping the period would be over soon. They just didn't like it. Like any salesman, I learned to put the "No's" behind me and concentrate on finding the "Yes's." The only conclusion I reached was that not everyone likes barbershop harmony, but I do; and I also like to find others who do, too.

Isn't the beauty of our Society the fact that it can embrace all kinds of barbershop singers, those who like to perform in public and those who should only sing in closed rooms with never a chance of an audience? THAT Society exists only when we let it, without scolding,

mocking or opinionated lecturing about what is or isn't barbershop and how the style SHOULD be presented to others. Strongly held and publicly stated personal opinions often distort what our hobby can offer that no other in the world can: harmony, both musical and personal. Being right isn't nearly as important as doing the right thing: introducing someone to the absolute power of barbershop harmony because it's good for him.

So, can we all quit trying to convince each other that we have the ONLY way to improve and grow the Society? We certainly do not, but we do have the ONLY Society that can embrace many singers of different eras and backgrounds who long for the thrill of singing harmony, however good it might be. And we risk that harmony every day we argue over which is the best path to follow to grow the Society while waiting for someone else to make the first move. Some of our members have already opted to form the BQA, and to them I wish Godspeed. May you find and develop what you want without criticism or second-guessing from those who choose not to support such a venture.

As for me, I'm looking forward to my next evening with three other guys who just want to sing and be a little bit better the next time because we discovered something about ourselves and our music. And I don't give a rip if anyone else enjoys it or not. The fact is, I do, and that's all that is important to me, a dues-paying member of this Society. That's what drives me to continue paying my dues and sharing my hobby with others who like what I like, even though they may like it for a different reason. Entertaining is not the only answer to growing the Society, nor will it drive members to our meetings. Participation, involvement, brotherhood, the helping hand we can provide and any number of other things we take for granted in the Society will, if we'll just share them with other guys. Whether it's through entertaining them or just singing with them because it feels good, we must not lose sight of the fact that this hobby is multi-faceted and the Society has provided and will continue to provide safe haven for men of good character who love to sing.

I'm looking forward also to your next can of worms. Rather than all becoming entertainers, we might be better served if we all became recruiters, eh? Each man recruiting someone with his own particular level of interest would likely bring more members in than just the entertainers, because entertainers often scare off the real hobbyist singers who could be just as supportive as anyone else to this Society. Don't we all know someone who convinced himself that he couldn't possibly do THAT as a good quartet entertained or a chorus wowed an audience somewhere. Problem is, he never saw and heard us try to learn that stuff! Maybe his perception would be a bit different if he had. Entertainment has its

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Feb. 22, 2005 Board Meeting

The board had a short meeting last night and decided the following:

1. Each quartet will be paid for travel expenses for Sunday and Monday at the rate of \$0.14 per mile.
2. The "tip money" or the payment for the Singing Valentine that exceeded the \$30.00 charge will be given to the respective quartet.

I'm asking each quartet to submit the total miles driven to me. I realize some of you did not keep track, but please estimate as best you can. I'll work with Ron Ventura to review those estimates and make them as fair as possible. I apologize that the board did not rule on this BEFORE the Valentines were delivered. Last year we paid \$12.00 per day per quartet and I assumed we would do the same this year.

The checks for the tip money will be given to a contact person for each quartet. As I recall, every quartet did not receive tip money.

The checks for the travel expense and the tip money are for the quartet's expenses and effort during Valentine delivery, and the board is not asking that they be signed over to the Chapter.

I want to issue these checks before or at the next Chapter meeting.

Ken

Humor?

Barbershoppers at practice

Two barbershoppers were attending a rather lengthy practice session. One leaned over and whispered, "My butt is going to sleep."

His friend leaned over and said, "I know. I heard it snore three times."

How many basses does it take to change a light bulb?

One out of three. Two thirds can't go that high.

Paid your dues yet? A relatively high number of our members renew in March. You'll notice a slight increase this year:

Regular member dues for 2005 are as follows:

Chapter dues	\$5.00
District dues	\$16.00
Society dues	\$82.00
Total	\$103.00
Initiation fee	\$10.00
Total for new members	\$113.00

Ev Nau Article continued from page 5

place in our Society, and it may be smaller than many would like it to be. But, it really can be a deterrent to membership growth in some ways. I've seen it too many times to believe otherwise.

Meanwhile, I respect your passion, John, for the hobby as you see it; but perhaps you could broaden your scope just a little and realize that there are many ways to grow the Society. Problem is, many of us haven't bothered to explore any of them . . . that's someone else's job, isn't it? That's why we hire those guys in Kenosha, right? Remind me to share a story with you some day about how that works. So, will you join me in asking guys to sing and participate? Together, we'll let them decide whether they want to sing for an audience or not. And I'm quite certain we'll both be happier for the experience, even though we may approach it in different ways.

Fair enough? Here's to our every success as a team that understands and embraces the different reasons men join us. Rather than looking for the silver bullet, let's concentrate on the silver lining of hope we can find for ourselves if we remain open about what will work in recruiting.

Ev Nau - with 78 Man of Notes, and only four were as a result of entertaining the recruits. The rest were a result of sharing the hobby as they wanted it to be for themselves. One of them was my son. But, that's another story.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MIAMI-SHELBY CHAPTER S P E B S Q S A INC
HELD FEB.7TH 2005 AT GREENSTREET UMC, PIQUA OHIO**

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Moore. Board members in attendance in addition to Pres. Moore were:

Dave Eleyet	Loren LeFever	Ken Crawford
Art Wehneman	Jim Riley	Jim Haley
Mark Reedy	Bill Ganger	Denny Julien
Dan Black	Guests: Stan Friedline	Dick Baker

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report was read by Secretary Dave Eleyet and approved on a motion by Mark Reedy and a second by Bill Ganger

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Ken Crawford reported receipts for the month of January at \$709.60. Expenses were \$1,763.17 with a balance in all funds on Jan.31st of \$11,867.32. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mark Reedy and seconded by Dan Black. Motion carried.

A brief discussion was held regarding a C D with a due date in March. Ken will see if we can get a higher int. rate elsewhere.

The 2005 budget was discussed. After going thru each line item several changes were made. A motion was then made by Loren LeFever and seconded by Jim Haley to accept the 2005 budget Motion carried. Ken will have a completed budget copy by next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP V P

Mark Reedy reported that Stan Friedline will be calling absent members the following week to determine the reason for their absence. There was also a brief discussion concerning a traveling I B H night with no action taken.

PUBLIC RELATIONS V P

Denny Julien is compiling a list of local papers and their ad rates with a view towards advertising our public performances. Also putting our picture and a short write-up in a local paper before a church performance was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Dick Baker reported that he is still looking for a coach.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR The following performances were received:

Piqua Taste Of The Arts May 20th This was rejected by consensus
Graham Middle School May 14th Gratis
Motion to accept by Denny Julien. Seconded by Dan Black. Motion carried.

Newsom Missionary Church June 26th . Full Service

Motion to accept by Bill Ganger. Seconded by Ken Crawford. Motion carried.

Covington St.John Lutheran July 10th Full Service.

This was tabled until it is determined if we have a director on that date.

Their being nothing further a motion to adjourn was made by Ken Crawford and seconded by Mark Reedy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Dave Eleyet Secretary 7

2005 Chapter Officers

President	Bob Moore
Secretary	Dave Eleyet
Treasurer	Ken Crawford
VP Music	Jim Riley
VP Membership	Mark Reedy
Program Co-ordinator	Dave Maxson
Director of Public Relations	Denny Julian
Trustee 2005	Tim Parmenter
Trustee 2005	Fritz Lefever
Trustee 2006	Art Wehneman
Trustee 2006	Jim Haley
Trustee 2007	Bill Ganger
Trustee 2007	Dan Black
Past President & District Delegate	Stan Friedline
Show Chairman	Mark Reedy
Show Director	Dave Maxson
Service Chairman	Gordon Davis
Music Librarian	Art Wehneman
Quartet Contact	John Gearhardt
Editor	Jim Moore
Bulletin Production/ Distribution	Jim Haley
YMIH Chairman	Dale McKinney
Director	Richard Baker
Ass't Directors	Bob Moore Brian Phillips

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Miami-Shelby Calendar

Mar 7	Mon	7:00p -8:30p	Board Meeting
Mar 8	Tues	7:30p - 10:00p	Rehearsal at Green Street Methodist Church
Mar 8	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Mar 15	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Mar 22	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Mar 29	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Apr 4	Mon	7:00p -8:30p	Board Meeting
Apr 5	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Apr 12	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church
Apr 19	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church Apr 20
Apr 26	Tue	7:30p -10:00p	Rehearsal Green Street Methodist Church

NotePaper is scheduled for distribution on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



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