



CALENDAR

August 11, & Sept 8, 2005
Farmer's Market SLO

August 13, 14 2005
Jim Turnmire coached
Sat: full chorus, Sun: quartets

August 21, 2005
Atascadero Picnic At
The Park with the Pacific
Horizons

August 21st— Inter-Chapter
meeting, Nipomo

August 26-28, 2005,
Harmony College West
Hayward, CA

September 11, 2005
John Staley Bash!

September 17, 2005
Rob & Erin wedding

October 13-16, 2005
FWD Fall CONTEST
Pasadena, CA

In this issue:

<i>President's Corner</i>	1
<i>Smile of the Day</i>	1
<i>Qualifying Policy</i>	2
<i>Quartet Coaching</i>	2
<i>Salt Lake International</i>	3
<i>Chapter Officers</i>	4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well it's that time again. Every year when we get new music I make a resolution that I will be one of the first to learn the words and music. And every year I find my self falling further and further behind. I don't think it is a sign of aging because memorizing was always a problem for me. But on the other hand I know I can do it if I put in the time and effort. It just isn't fun. The benefits of learning the music of course are well known. I help the whole chorus when I know my part. I help my self when I practice using my memory every day. The satisfaction I get when I feel confident with the music is great. It just isn't fair that it is so much easier for some people to memorize then others!

OK, with the whining out of the way, I need to start with a plan to learn the music. Typing out the words and carrying them in my pocket to review during walks, com-

mercials and church services works best for me. Don Poole once told us that practicing the music in your head also causes our



vocal cords to exercise. I like to play a game to see how far I can go in a song before I have to look at the lyrics. Learning the melody, I believe, is a lot easier then learning the harmony. Between baseball, Marine League and going to the gym, Jim Hawkins has found he can learn the music by listening to the tapes in his car. For me it is easier to use a piano or a keyboard, although I understand that using a piano presents minor problems with pitch. I have a small keyboard I

carry in the car. I just have to discipline myself to get it out and practice. I bet there are a lot of interesting strategies some of you have found to help you learn the music. I for one would be interested in sharing them at one of our programs!

There is one more technique to learn the words and music and that involves attendance at all of the rehearsals. Rick does a good job of helping us learn the words and identifying where we could be doing some additional practice, such as – "Batter up, strike one! Hey the game has just begun.."

Ya, learning the words may not be fun. But the end result of knowing the music and being a leader in your section is worth the effort. Let's do it!

Chuck Wilbur, President



Smile of the day: (You might be a Barbershopper if:)

1. You've tried to get your dog to howl just so you can harmonize with someone.
2. Your doctor schedules your heart surgery on a rehearsal night and you gotta think twice about it.
3. Your wind chimes are tuned to a minor 7th.
4. You won't go to the drugstore to get your wife some panty-hose, but it's ok to wear lipstick and rouge in front of 400 Shriners.



Notes from VP Music and Performance



John Staley, VP Music & Performance

Music Team Matters

In recent weeks there have been questions asked by chapter members concerning the “qualification” of registered and “pickup” (non-registered) quartets to perform as representatives of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Gold Coast Barbershop Chorus. All kinds of special conditions might be imagined, but the guidelines below should clarify the matter for most situations:

Obviously, neither the Board nor the Music Team can prevent any four guys from getting together and forming a quartet to perform locally for friends or for the general public. However, in order for a quartet to perform as representatives of the BHS and/or the GCBC, a quartet should “audition” as follows: The quartet should perform at least one song, preferably more, for at least two members of the Music Team (Directors, Assistant Directors, Section Leaders and/or Assistant Section Leaders), and should also demonstrate how they “segue” from one song to another in the course of their act. This applies to registered quartets as well as “pickup” quartets formed for specific one-time singouts such as the farmers market or to perform the National Anthem at a ballgame. If the members reviewing the audition see opportunities for the quartet to improve their singing or their act, they will provide coaching as needed.

The process for a quartet to sing on the show is slightly different. The quartet should announce their intention to the Show Director or another senior member of the Show Committee, who will arrange for the quartet to be auditioned on the specific songs, and the specific scripting, that the quartet will perform on the show.

The process for auditioning quartets for singing valentines is well known. The quartet must perform, for a designated qualifier, the valentine package which includes the two songs and the announcements and comments between the songs performed..

Hopefully the above guidelines should clarify the questions that have been asked about quartet “qualification.” See you on the risers—

John Staley, VP Music and Performance

DATELINE—San Luis Obispo:

August 8, 2005

Wasn't it great to see, and sing, with all those guys last week? Gosh we had 35 men on the risers. What a sound when we are all together!

Out of seventy-one members, according to the newest roster, (thank you Gil Brown and George Loose) there were forty-four men not singing with us. Can you imagine how we could sound if we had all of our members there every Monday night?

Out of that forty-four members, however, twenty-eight of them have moved away or can't attend for other reasons, but that leaves sixteen men who can, and ARE NOT! WOW, can you imagine the thrilling sound we could make with those additional sixteen men?

I wonder what you and I could do to make that happen and turn an ordinary enjoyable Monday evening into a GREAT Monday night rehearsal!! Whatever it takes, let's DO IT!

Greg Schifano



QUARTET COACHING NOW AVAILABLE

Have you always wanted to be part of a quartet? Do you want to form a quartet of your own? Would you like to pick up tips on how to form that quartet or improve the one you're in? Then come to Greg Schifano's studio Tuesday nights, 7 PM to 10 PM. 4736 Bridge Creek Road. Maps will be available at rehearsals Monday night. Greg can be reached at 544-3116. Greg has hosted two coaching sessions so far this August, one with Jim Turnmire (thanks, Jim!) Come join us!!

NOTES FROM SALT LAKE INTERNATIONAL



NOTEWORTHY 

Editor's note: This article was originally scheduled for July's edition, which unfortunately did not make it to press in time. We regret there were no pictures to accompany this article, but we present a "first person account" of the wonderful experience of attending the International Convention in Salt Lake this year.

After 11 years of Barbershop Harmony I finally made it to an International Convention and what a time we had. We arrived on a Tuesday afternoon, found our motel and unpacked our bags raring to go. Our first stop was the Headquarters Hotel where we found the Market Place and proceeded to obtain our seat tickets and name tags. After getting these items, we wandered through the area and left with our hands filled with Barbershop items like CD's, pins, tee shirt and patches. Of course, all things we needed and couldn't pass up!

Our next goal was to go to the Convention Center to see what was going on. The tram (street car) was just outside Headquarters Hotel, which we took us to the Center, which exceeded my wildest dreams. It was really something to see for the first time. We quickly became acquainted with this Salt Lake Convention Center, as many of the competitions and other events were held here. Upon entering the Center, the first thing we saw was the stage with covered risers, above that was another tier where the organ was located and above that in tiers were the seats for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Above the choir the main center of interest were the pipes for the organ, their brass outlined in dark wood and was truly a picture in itself.

We entered on the ground floor where our seats were located for the Convention. John did a great job in securing such good seats for our group. We didn't need to worry about not seeing the stage when the quartets sang or the choruses were presenting music, as there were two very large TV screens that gave the audience a full view of what was happening on stage. Above us were two balconies that held hundreds of people. The entire Hall holds over 22,000 people and we had 8,000 Barbershoppers alone, so there was lots of room left over, but we did fill the area quite well.

The quartets were all good and as I sat listening to one after another, I was glad I was not a judge. What a responsibility and what difficult decisions they had to make to narrow the choices of who would come out first. The same with the choruses, but what struck me more was the precision of the choreography and keeping the quality of the music at the same time. Some did

better than others, but they all looked and sounded great to me.

Certain things stand out when you are at an affair such as this. For me, one was when Bethany and I rushed over to the Headquarters Hotel to hear "Singing with the Champs." We went to hear one person in particular sing with the quartet "Gotcha." That was Dane Howalt! He did it and did a great job. By now as you read this you may have heard all about his experience. For me it was one of the highlights and I was pleased to be a part of his being able to sing with them. Singing their rendition of "Nellie" was not easy, but Dane did it and we should all be proud of our bass that sang with "Gotcha."

The second outstanding part of the convention for us was on Sunday morning when we returned to the Convention Center to watch the televised program by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Barbershop Harmony Society Gold Medal Chorus. This was really awesome! Nine hundred fifty voices joined together to sing great music, along with "Acoustix" quartet singing, "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

After the broadcasted program there was an intermission before a special program was presented for the entire Barbershop Convention and the general public. This event was another highlight for us.

Bethany and I left and said farewell to Salt Lake City in the early afternoon and headed eastward traveling through Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and finally driving up to our home in Shawano, Wisconsin. A welcome sight after being on the road for such a long time, but with lots of good memories of a Convention I'm glad I saw and heard.

Don Griffiths

Don and Bethany are still in Wisconsin, where he is participating in a local barbershop but he sounds like he is distinctly missing the Gold Coast Barbershop Chorus and can hardly wait to return to us in September. As you know, he will be the Show Chairman (along with George Loose) and he's going to be all ears and listening for any of your ideas on how to have a successful Annual Show next year....ed.



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SLO Frequency sings at Farmer's Market August 11, 2005

Gold Coast Chorus meets Mondays at 7:00 PM - Adult School, Rm J4, 1572 Lizzie St, San Luis Obispo



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