



the north shore harmony rag



Joseph Schlesinger, Third Assistant
Temporary Editor and Royal Keeper
of the Minor Typos

North Shore Chapter,
Society for the
Preservation and
Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.

Meetings:
7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Presbyterian Home,
3131 Simpson St.
(Golf Rd.), Evanston, IL
(Guests are welcome!)

April 2004

27 Members

Volume 32, Issue 4

REGISTER FOR
THE LOUISVILLE
INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION

Join your
fellow Barber-
shoppers in
“Derby Town”
for the
barbershop
run for the
roses.

Louisville, Ky.
is the site of
the 2004
International
Convention.
To register, go
to www.spebsqsa.org/louisville or
call 800/876-
7464, x8462.
Convention
dates are
June 27-July 4;
online regis-
tration closes
June 15.

Oh-Four Goodness Sake! This Year’s Spring District Convention Leaves Its Mark

Our spring district convention was filled with good news and bad news.

Good news: 17 quartets and 11 choruses participated in the contests this time. Bad news: these numbers were down from spring convention last year.

Good news: the three high school quartets that competed were outstanding. Bad news: there were no college quartets in this contest.

Good news: our **Shoreliner Chorus** went to Peoria feeling confident that our contest set, which had worked so well for us in 2002, would enable us to surpass our old scoring record. Bad news: despite our best efforts, we finished in eighth place (up one notch from last year), though our total score of 590 was an improvement over last year’s total of 565. See judges’ comments on page 3.

Top five choruses were Lake County **Brotherhood of Harmony** (842 points), Champaign-Urbana **Illini Statesmen** (776 points), Elgin **Fox Valley Men of Harmony** (754 points), Springfield **Land of Lincoln**

Chorus (741 points), and Aurora **Lamplighters Chorus** (682 points).

Top five quartets were **Aces High** (1766 points), **Sonic** (1754 points), **Wound 4 Sound** (1641 points), **tsunami** (1614 points), and **Sequel** (1549). **3 Men & a Melody**, from neighboring Central States District, blew everyone else away, with a total score of 1941 points. **Aces High** won the right to represent

Illinois District at the 2004 international contest. However, if **Alchemy**, who will compete in the Pioneer District prelims, outscores them, then that quartet will go to international instead. Get the complete contest score-sheets from the district Web site: www.harmonize.ws/ill.

Other news: **Chordmasters** won the novice quartet cham-

Continued on page 3
—see CONVENTION

New Photo Albums Added to Chapter Web Site

As promised in earlier issues of the *Harmony Rag*, we have added to the chapter Web site (www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners) a link to additional photo albums.

At present, the albums contain photos of our holiday kettle sing last December and this year’s officers’ installation dinner. There is also an album of photos from the 2001 International Convention in Nashville.

If members have any digital photos from other chapter functions—or plan to take any digital photos of future chapter functions—please e-mail them or provide them on a floppy disk or CD-ROM to **Joseph Schlesinger**, and he will add them to the Web site.

To browse them, go to the chapter home page and click on “Additional Photo Albums” next to “Photo Album”—or go directly to the AOL home page:

<http://hometown.aol.com/bbsbasso/index.html>

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The May Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m.
 Sunday, **May 2**, at **Marty Steigman's** home, 4322
 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter members are
 welcome.

Chapter Web site:
www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners
 (Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA will:

1. Provide, to whatever extent possible, organized chorus activities and organized quartet activities at every regular chapter meeting.
2. Actively seek public performance opportunities for the chapter chorus.
3. Continuously strive to increase its active membership.
4. Continuously strive to improve the musical quality of its chorus as a collective unit and the musical ability of its chapter members as individuals.
5. Contribute to the cultural panorama of the communities from which our organization draws its membership, thereby:
 - a. Increasing its visibility in the local community and fostering a positive perception of our organization,
 - b. Enhancing public awareness of, and appreciation for, barbershop harmony, and
 - c. Creating opportunities to recruit new members.

March/April Guests

Mike Bagby (Northbrook Chapter—Illinois District V.P., Membership & Chapter Development)
 Sherry Bagby (M. Bagby)
 Jerry Ladin (Kohn)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
 Wed., 5/19—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance**—6:30 p.m. warmup; sing 7-7:30 at James C. King Home, 1555 Oak Ave. (just north of Grove St.), Evanston. Attire: chorus casual (blue pullovers, black slacks, black shoes and socks). Afterward we will proceed to our chapter meeting, which will begin at the customary time. See page 3.
 Sat., 5/22—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Skokie Festival of Cultures**—*Performance canceled*; they did not choose us to be among this year's artists.
 Sun., 6/27-Sun., 7/4—**66th International Convention**—Louisville, Ky.
 Fri., 9/24-Sun., 9/26—**Illinois District Fall Convention**—Peoria.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners

Elsewhere:
 Sat., 5/1 and Sun., 5/2—**Northbrook Chapter Show**—2:30 (Saturday and Sunday) and 8 (Saturday only) p.m. at Glenbrook South H.S., 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview.
 Featuring: **Freestyle** (1999 Far Western District Champs), **New Tradition Chorus** (2001 International Champion Chorus/current Illinois District Champion Chorus). Tickets: \$21 (VIP, evening only), \$18 (remaining main floor and front mezzanine), \$18 (VIP, matinee only), \$16 (VIP for students and senior citizens, matinee only), \$16 (remaining main floor and mezzanine, matinee only), \$15 (rear of mezzanine, evening only), \$14 (remaining seats for students and senior citizens, matinee only); all seats reserved; group discounts available. For more information, call 800/SHOWCHORUS (746-9246); for specific questions or group orders, call **Barry Cain** at 847/729-8771. Or see **Joseph Schlesinger** or **Dick Yanow**.
 Fri., 5/21—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barbershoppers invited: \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 847/678-0092.

Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:
www.bbs.singer.as

Cross an elephant with a former American president and you get a creature with a very beautiful voice that can break glass. It also falls down a lot. It's an Elephantsgerald.
 (John Nunley—by way of Bob Levi)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
 North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA is a group of men of all ages who enjoy gathering in fellowship to sing in the four-part, a cappella, close harmony style known as barbershop. As we participate in our varied social and musical activities, including both choral and quartet singing, our members can develop their vocal skills and their appreciation of the rich heritage of American song, which we share with our community through performances in a variety of settings.

Recognize this?
 “Eye-eye-eye-ih-oh, uh-wee-ih-ow-a-oh, yoo-ay-ur-eh-ee-eh, uh-uh-a-uh-eh, wih-eye-eye-eye-ih-oh (eye-ih-oh)”
 If you said, “Hey, that’s ‘My Wild Irish Rose’ without the consonants, just the vowel sounds!”—you’d be right.
 Let’s remember to connect those vowel sounds and minimize the unsingable consonants for the legato quality that listeners enjoy.

Here’s What the Judges Said . . .

Barry Towner—Presentation

- Saw too many wandering eyes.¹
- Chorus didn’t “perform” the song.¹
- No expression in the sound.¹
- Chorus appeared to be more “into” “Hello, Mary Lou” than “You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby.”
- Gesture on “whole wide world” looked stiff and unconvincing.¹
- There appeared to be only 50% participation in the chorus.²
- Attacks and releases were choppy² (try making every breath *half as long*).
- Do you like this song? If so, show it. If not, pick a different song.³
- Every move should have a purpose. To make arm gestures look more natural, make believe you’re caressing a baby’s face—or envision picking up a fragile egg and placing it on a table.³

Paul Wigley—Music

- Problems with synchronization and cleanliness of delivery were the biggest distraction.¹
- Syncopated phrases were a major problem¹ (rehearsing phrases in unison and block chords can correct this).
- Phrase ends lost energy.²
- Dynamic variety was “kind of compressed” (in other words, there wasn’t much dynamic contrast between phrases).²
- In the phrase leading into the tag, the upper three voices’ release was sloppy.²

Quartet News

Congratulations to **Chordmasters** on winning the district novice quartet championship and to **Savoir Four** for winning the district senior quartet championship.

After more than 15 years, **Dick Yanow** has retired as tenor of **Hospitality**. The quartet’s new tenor is **Pat Brady**.

Tom McQueeney—Singing

- Lead vocal quality needs more support¹ (two suggestions: “mee may my mo moo” exercise and singing at different volumes for unity of support).
- Some balance opportunities were missed (in other words, there were places where individual voices and sections were out of balance).¹
- Leads were occasionally under pitch.¹
- “Passed me by one summer day” was out of sync.²
- Too much “late-to-target” (ragged) singing.²
- More forward posture will enable the chorus to support the sound better.³
- Try experimenting with different sound/air ratios.³
- Instead of making a “powerful effort,” demonstrate “effortless power.”³
- “Deliver the gift” at the end of every phrase.³
- There were moments of A-level singing—they just were not consistent enough.³

1 Applies mostly to “You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby,” but more or less to both songs.

2 Applies mostly to “Hello, Mary Lou,” but more or less to both songs.

3 Applies equally to both songs.

To find out more about the judging categories and the adjudication criteria, see the *Contest and Judging Handbook* located on the Society Web site at:

www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/graphics/pub_contestjudginghandbookrev2.pdf

Chapter Directory Update

Restore:
 Paul Smalley
 2700 Lawndale Ave., Evanston 60201
 phone: 310/479-6452
 exp. 12/31/04 (1996)

The Following Members Have Committed to Perform with the Chorus on May 19

Pete Brandt
 Gary Goodfriend (if ready)
 Kevin Jones
 Tom Leaveck (maybe)
 Phil Martin (if in town)

Convention

(Continued from page 1)

pionship, and **Savoir Four** won the district senior quartet championship (despite forfeiting their Saturday night set). Meanwhile, the district House of Delegates voted to retain the new plateau system, which categorizes choruses based on their scores in the last two contests in which they competed.

Fall contest will be Sept. 24-26 at the same place. Let’s plan to share the fun.

Beware of TV Solicitation

The Society has been made aware that chapters and/or quartets are being solicited with an approach similar to the following:

Hello my name is Lisa. I am a representative with a Talent Marketing and Promotions Company. We are currently looking for talent for a NEW REALITY TV SHOW with the following needed: models, actors, musicians, dancers, singers, rappers, DJ’s and comedians.

The Society doesn’t endorse the solicitation nor did we provide contact information. We understand that there is a fee to “enter” and there may be other costs involved—unknown at this time. No TV deal is certain at this time either.

Any quartets or chapters that pursue this do so at their own risk.

—from *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*
Reed Sampson, editor

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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"If a thing isn't
worth saying,
you sing it."

—Pierre
Beaumarchais

The Hazards of New-Fangled Musical Technology

(In case you're tempted to purchase one of those fancy electronic gizmos from Harmony Emporium, be aware of the possible consequences, as related in the following *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* story by **Kristina Torres**.)

Pope High evacuated— because of metronome

Pope High School in east Cobb County was evacuated for about an hour this morning when staff found a ticking and beeping bookbag off by itself in a classroom.

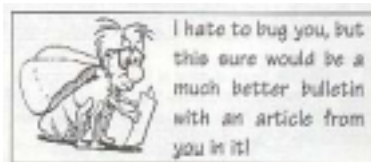
The student who eventually stepped forward to claim the bag was a band member who had brought an electronic

metronome to school today, according to district spokesman Jay Dillon.

The metronome, a device used by musicians to mark exact time, apparently went off accidentally.

Dillon said the student probably will not be disciplined.

—from *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
March 26, 2004
(posted to the Harmonet by
Helen Giallombardo)



Believe in Yourself

Think the road to barbershop competition is frustrating? Consider all the obstacles **Abraham Lincoln** overcame on his road to the White House . . .

- Failed in business in 1831 (age 22)
- Defeated for Legislature in 1832 (age 23)
- Again failed in business in 1833 (age 24)
- Elected to Legislature in 1834 (age 25)
- Sweetheart died in 1835 (age 26)
- Had a nervous breakdown in 1836 (age 27)
- Defeated for Speaker in 1838 (age 29)
- Defeated for Elector in 1840 (age 31)
- Defeated for Congress in 1843 (age 34)
- Elected to Congress in 1846 (age 37)
- Defeated for Congress in 1848 (age 39)
- Defeated for Senate in 1855 (age 46)
- Defeated for Vice President in 1856 (age 47)
- Defeated for Senate in 1858 (age 49)
- Elected President of the United States in 1860 (age 51)