



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!)

January 2004

26 Members

Volume 32, Issue 1

We hope you will attend our annual dinner on Jan. 17. It promises to be an evening filled with fun, friends, good food, and, of course, good singing.

And, if you haven't done so already, please pay Bill Remien for your reservation(s). The price is \$28 per person.

Chorus Performances Launch the New Year

The **Shoreliner Chorus** is getting 2004 off to a great start by scheduling a couple of Wednesday-night performances at Evanston retirement homes.

These performances are gratis, our way of making good on promising, but not being able to deliver, vocal groups at these locations during Evanston Harmony Days last year.

In addition to polishing our repertoire, which, for the most part, we neglected during the holiday season, we will have an opportunity to run through our contest set for an appreciative audience. That could only help in our preparations for competition in Peoria.

Times, locations, and other information for the Feb. 4 and March 10 performances are given in the calendar on page 2.

Naturally, all chorus members are encouraged to participate—here are the members who have made their commitments via our signup sheet:

Brandt: Feb. 4 and March 17
Cutrera: Feb. 4 and March 17
LeHew: Feb. 4 and March 17
Martin: Feb. 4 and March 17
Mimura: Feb. 4 and March 17
Prieto: Feb. 4 and March 17
Remien: Feb. 4 and March 17
Schlesinger: Feb. 4 and March 17
Schwimmer: Feb. 4 and March 17
Steigman: Feb. 4 only

2003 Kettle Sing a Huge Success

Our sing around the kettle for Salvation Army on Dec. 20 was one of our most successful efforts ever for that philanthropic organization. **Majors Alberto** and **Selicia Rapley** of Evanston Corps report that the collection during our shift came to \$431.09, not a record (that would have been the \$899.75 we collected in 1989), but still very respectable. The majors thank us for our continued support. (Some photos of our group are on page 3.)

Books Bring in Big Bucks

The *Entertainment 2004* discount coupon book selling season has ended. **Pete Brandt** reports that 51 books have been sold this time around, representing a \$204 profit for our chapter.

That total is down from the 66 books we sold in 2002-03, but the monies brought in are a welcome addition to our treasury. Thanks to all of you who helped.

Hoo-Boy, Did Your Editor Blow It!

We don't recall wishing that the past two years were all a terrible dream, as in some episode of *Dallas*. But how else could we explain listing **Bill Remien** as immediate past president for 2004 in our December issue article about the election of new chapter officers?

Actually, your immediate past president for 2004 is **Joseph Schlesinger**. We should have known better, and we apologize to ourselves. Oh well, at least we spelled all the names correctly!

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
 Martin Steigman — 847/675-9223
 V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:
 Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921
 V.P. Music & Performance:
 Paul Mimura — 847/677-8092
 Secretary: Pete Brandt — 847/674-6349
 Treasurer: Edward Price — 773/334-1419
 Immediate Past President:
 Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921

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 Joseph Schlesinger
 1570 Oak Avenue, #416
 Evanston, IL 60201
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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The February Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Feb. 8**, at **Marty Steigman's** home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter members are welcome.

Chapter Web site:
<http://evkhome.northstarnet.org/bflat>
 (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.

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
 Sat., 1/17—**Annual Chapter Dinner and Installation of Officers**—5:30 (cocktails) and 6:30 p.m. (dinner served) at Hackney's on Lake, 1514 E. Lake Ave. (just east of Waukegan Rd.), Glenview. Place your reservations with **Bill Remien**. See page 6.
 Sun., 1/25-Sat., 2/1—**64th Annual Midwinter Convention**—Biloxi, Miss.
 Wed., 2/4—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance**—6:30 p.m. warmup; sing 7-7:30 at The Georgian, 422 Davis 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.
 Wed., 3/10—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance**—6:30 p.m. warmup; sing 7-7:30 at the Swedish Retirement Association (Landstrom Manor North Building game room), 2400 Colfax 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.
 Fri., 2/6-Sat., 2/7—**Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH)**—Peoria.
 Fri., 3/26-Sun., 3/28—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

Elsewhere:
 Fri., 1/16—**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

November/December Guests

Gary Goodfriend (former member)
 David Pietz (former member)
 Fred Smart (former member)—with Frederick IV, Thomas, and Andrew ("My Three Sons")
 Robert Teng (Schlesinger)
 Lodewijk Van Holsbeeck (Schlesinger)
 Steven Whitney (Schlesinger)

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.

COME ONE 'N ALL

Thanks again to all the members who were part of this special event. And thanks also to our guests: Gary Goodfriend, Dave Pietz, Fred Smart, Steve Whitney, Mike Samis, and Erica Samis.

We Shared the Joy of the Season

Singing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army

Jewel Foods, Evanston
December 20, 2003



Photos courtesy of Jason Steigman.

We will try to get the whole set of photos onto the chapter Web site . . . but it might take a while.



Do Something Special for Your Honey This Valentine's Day!

Send Her—or Him A SINGING VALENTINE!



Your honey will NEVER forget the formally dressed quartet that shows up to sing two or three love songs in your name. In addition, the quartet will give that special someone a card and a rose.

The quartet can show up at home, office, or school. Or they can meet you at a restaurant or bar to perform the serenade. Can you think of anything more romantic?

Reserve now! Performances can be scheduled for any time February 14. Call 847/869-2441 or 847/328-0921 for reservations and details. Or e-mail kevinj427@sbcglobal.net.

Sponsored by North Shore Chapter, SPEBSQSA. Find out more about us at our Web site: <http://evkhome.northstarnet.org/bflat>.

What about contest?

Well, what about contest?

Until the Jan. 20 music team meeting, there is nothing to say that we don't already know.

In the meantime, let's all focus our attention during rehearsal time on perfecting our performance.

March 27 will be here before we know it!

Let's Talk Craft—Vowel Matching

—Tom Raburn (Big D, Tex. Chapter)

Question: When does $2 + 2 = 5$?
Answer: When barbershop harmony is sung correctly, creating harmonic overtones and "expanded sound."

One of the most important factors in the achievement of choral blend and expanded sound is unity of vowel sounds. Vowels are what we sing and sustain, separated by consonants to make words. When we match vowel sounds, we create like harmonics, and the sound expands in intensity through reinforcement. In singing, vowels are created through the natural resonance of the human vocal tract. The tongue, lips and jaw are used to fashion the resonators into

their vowel shapes. Some basic rules to follow when forming vowel sounds are:

1. When producing all vowel sounds, the tip of the tongue should be placed gently on the lower gum ridge, with the tip barely touching the base of the lower teeth. This helps keep the throat open so the vocal chords can vibrate naturally through the resonators (mouth, throat, and sinus cavities).
2. The jaw should be allowed to relax naturally with a swinging down and back motion.

3. The lips should leave the teeth uncovered.
4. Although the mouth must be open wide, it is not how wide it is open but the shape that is most important.

Every vowel can be sung with one of three mouth shapes: round (example—"oh"), square (example—"ih" as in sit) and oblong (example—"ah" as in pop). Refinements to form each specific vowel sound are made by the degree to which the tongue is arched in the mouth, and the degree to which the jaw is dropped.

Continued on page 6
—see CRAFT

Musical News from SPEBSQSA

Learning CD's available January 2004

The Society's very popular learning cassette program is expanding to include CD format beginning Monday, Jan. 5, 2004. Each single song CD (published catalog only) will contain all four voice part tracks in the same voice predominant right channel - other three voices left channel configuration as the cassettes.

Some CDs will also contain other tracks, such as a demo. For songs in eight parts, the CD will contain the predominant voice tracks for all parts.

At this time, there are 150 songs available, including the Barbershop Classics series (7340-7384), Harmony Explosion series (8601-8617, 8625-8635) and Gold Medal series (8801-8836), for the initiation of the learning CD program. Songs from previous series (Songs for Men, Show Tunes, Harmony Heritage, etc.) will be made available on a continuing basis. There may be some delay on orders for songs that have not yet been remastered for CD.

The price per CD will be \$12. Note, the current price for a set of four single cassettes is \$16. Volume discounts will not apply. An information page with the Society policy and procedure for chapters to duplicate tracks for their members will be included with each order. Orders should be directed to Harmony Marketplace, specifying CD's @ \$12 or cassettes @ \$4 per voice part.

New music pricing announced

Instead of listing two prices for music purchased from Harmony Marketplace, one for members and one for non-members, a price of \$2.20 per copy will now be in effect as of Jan. 1, 2004. Members will receive a 25-percent discount, effectively making the member price \$1.65 per copy. Whether purchased by a member or non-member, there will be a 10-percent discount for volume orders of 40 or more copies. This will put the member cost at only \$1.485 per copy for volume purchases.

Preview service for unpublished arrangements discontinued

A moratorium has been called for the mailing of legal/unpublished arrangements for previewing. The heavy volume of orders has required us to seek a better way to help music consumers interested in this giant reservoir of music. *Live Wire* readers will be the first to know when a new process is ready to go.

Register for the Biloxi midwinter convention

Get away to sunny Biloxi for a great week of barbershop harmony, shows and the international seniors quartet contest. To register, go to www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter or call 800/876-7464 x8462. The midwinter convention runs from Jan. 25 to Feb. 1.

—from SPEBSQSA
Live Wire,
Reed Sampson, editor)



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“Happiness is different from pleasure. Happiness has something to do with struggling and enduring and accomplishing.”

—Dr. George Sheahan

Frank Hiltonberry 1914-2003

Frank Hiltonberry passed away Dec. 26. Though he was an inactive member of North Shore Chapter, Frank had also belonged to several other chapters, including Ozaukee County, Wis., and Chicago #1.

When Frank became a dual member of North Shore, he was singing in a quartet from Milwaukee called the **Goldenaires**, all four members of which joined our chapter simultaneously. Frank was the last of the Milwaukee crowd to remain a North Shore member.

He is survived by a son, Frank; a daughter, Mary; and three grandchildren.

Chapter Directory Update

Kevin Jones:
new e-mail address:
kevinj427@sbcglobal.net

Martin Steigman:
add e-mail address:
mjsteigman2@msn.com

Change exp. to 12/31/04:
John Buenz
Kevin Jones
John Martini
Tom McCracken
Paul Mimura
Ed Price
Phil Schwimmer
Elmer Sweet

“Where’s my district directory?” you ask. It’s on the Illinois District Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ill), where it’s constantly updated throughout the year.

Craft

(continued from page 5)

For instance, both the “oh” sound and the “oo” (as in moon) sound are made with the round mouth shape, but the “oh” sound is made with the mouth as open as possible while the “oo” sound is made with the smallest, most rounded shape.

As we sing the songs in our repertoire, keep in mind the basic mechanics of producing vowel sounds and think about the target vowel sound for each word in the song. Properly matched vowels can enable our chorus of 20-something men to “fill the hall” and create the expanded sound that makes barbershop harmony so much fun to sing and hear.

—from PROBE Web site
(www.harmonize.com/probe)