



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!)

July 2002

29 Members

Volume 30, Issue 7

Photographs and scores from the 2002 International Convention in Portland have been posted to the Society's Web site (www.spebsqsa.org).

A computer glitch in the program the judges use to determine the order of quartets appearing in a subsequent contest round resulted in an unprecipitated 11 quartets announced for the finals.

Fortunately, this did not affect the outcome of the contest.

Four Voices Win Quartet Gold in Portland



Masters of Harmony Score Fifth Win

Breathtakingly scenic surroundings, agreeable weather, excellent transportation, and superlative harmony combined to make our Society's 64th International Convention a huge success. Portland's Rose Garden Arena was one of the best contest venues we've attended in years.

The level of singing was elevated once again, as 43 quartets and 21 choruses vied for the title of "best in the world."

Four Voices, from Dixie District, were champions in the 1996 MBNA College Quartet Contest. In the intervening years, they have worked their way up the ladder in international quartet competition to win this year's gold with their smooth, accurate style. It also doesn't hurt to have a bass who looks like **Tom Cruise**. (**Hospitality** should be so lucky!)

Other medalists were **Uptown Sound** (Johnny Appleseed) in second place, **Power Play** (Pioneer) in third, **Riptide** (Dixie) in fourth, and past national Harmony Sweepstakes champs **Metropolis** (Far Western) in fifth.

The two quartets from Illinois District finished outside of the finals: **Cheers!** came in 11th, and **Gangbusters!** ended up in 29th place.

In the chorus contest, **Masters of Harmony** (Santa Fe Springs, Calif.) picked up their fifth gold medal, followed, in order, by: **Toronto Northern Lights** (Toronto, Ont.), **Alexandria Harmonizers** (Alexandria, Va.), **Ambassadors of Harmony** (St. Charles, Mo.), and **Midwest Vocal Express** (Greendale, Wis.). Illinois' **Great American Chorus** (Lake County) placed 16th.

Other highlights: Retiring champion **New Tradition Chorus**, with a special video produced by former **Shoreliner John Miller**, presented a swan song package that elicited numerous standing ovations. Two quartets from the People's Republic of China made their premier appearance at a SPEBSQSA convention. The number of attendees under age 30 appeared surprisingly high compared to previous years—we hope this bodes well for our hobby's future.

Next year it's in Montreal!

May/June/July Guests

Jack Cutrera
(DuPage Valley Chapter)
Marvin Michnik (Yanow)

Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival

By this time, it's no secret that North Shore Chapter's involvement in the Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival has been scaled back from our original plans.

We'll still need the participation of all who signed up, including the setup volunteers, but our booth will operate only from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21.

The location of the festival is Dawes and Centennial Parks, on the lakeshore at Sheridan Rd. and Church St. Admission is free, and our front row is doing their special dance to keep the rain away.

A quartet of **Shoreliners** will sing for 20-minute shifts, while other nonsinging members gather names and addresses of interested onlookers for follow-up contact.

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The August Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 4, at Phil Schwimmer's home, 3432
Salem Walk E., Northbrook. All chapter members
are welcome.

Chapter Web site: www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat
(Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
Sat., 7/20 and Sun., 7/21—**Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival**—Dawes Park, Evanston.
Wed., 7/24, 7/31, and 8/7—**Guest Night/Open Houses.**
Sun., 7/28-Sun., 8/4—**Harmony College/Directors College**—St. Joseph, Mo.
Sat., 8/17—**"Rain-on-the-Hamburgers" Party**—3 p.m.-? at **Bill and Marilyn Remien's** home, 2121 Madison Pl., Evanston. All members invited. Please sign up and indicate what you will bring.
Fri., 9/27-Sun., 9/29—**Illinois District Fall Convention**—Peoria.

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

Elsewhere:

Fri., 7/19—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barber-shoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 630/543-8808 (days).

Sat., 8/24—**North Shore Harmonizers Barbershop Harmony Festival**—8 p.m. at Wallace Bowl, Gillson Park, Wilmette. Featuring **Fourstars, Four Spacious Guys, Chordmasters, Trebled Spirits, All 4 One, Arlingtones Chorus, North Shore Harmonizers.** FREE!! For more information, call **Bob Bierie** at 847/256-6100. In case of rain, the event will move to the auditorium of the Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Rd. (at Skokie Blvd.), Wilmette.

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

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.

You're Invited to a Picnic!



The **North Shore Chapter Picnic** will be held
Saturday, August 17, 2002 - 3:00 p.m.
at the home of **Bill & Marilyn Remien**
2121 Madison Place, Evanston
Entrée provided. RSVP: 847/864-8753.

"From the Top"

What's going on in our little chapter?

Even though our Music and Performance Veep **Bill Remien** is summering in Wisconsin, our music program hasn't screeched to a halt. We're currently reviewing and polishing the "forgotten" songs in our repertoire so that we'll have something to perform when the opportunity arises.

I've recently been contacted by **Harmon Greenblatt**, the

director of Evanston's Cultural Arts Division, regarding our plans for Arts Week in Evanston 2002 (Oct. 5-13). Remember that performance we gate at Music Institute of Chicago last year? We'd like to do something similar again this year, so I'll bring up the subject again at an upcoming meeting.

Just a thought inspired by the passing last month of former **Shoreliner** and all-around Barbershopper **Bob LeClair**, that **Jim Croce** was

right when he sang that "there never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do once you find them." So don't miss out on opportunities to enjoy singing and listening to barbershop harmony.

Yes, family and work must come first . . . but don't forget to make time for barbershop. Looking back, you won't regret it.

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
President

Some insurance companies (such as The Prudential and MetLife) are in the process of demutualization and issuing stock to their policy holders. The stock issues can result in capital gains and ordinary income tax obligations for policy holders. To avoid the gains, the policy holders may be able to directly transfer the stock as a donation to Harmony Foundation and obtain a charitable deduction for its fair market value. For information on how to transfer stocks, please contact Larry Gilhousen at 800/876-7464 x8448 or e-mail to lgilhousen@spebsqsa.org.

Lead's Creed

—David Bailey-Aldrich (Hilltop, Minn. Chapter)
from the Harmonet

(Way back in June 1997, "The Baritone's Oath" appeared in the *Harmony Rag*. The response was underwhelming: aside from a note from **Phil Schwimmer**, nothing.

Since then, your editor has seen posted to the Harmonet a series of creeds for each voice part. We believe in providing equal time for all voice parts; therefore, we will present all the creeds, starting with the one for leads, since leads believe they are the alpha and omega of every quartet and chorus.)

1. We will not flaunt in front of others the fact that we have the best voice in the group (unless the music calls for it, which, come to think of it, it usually does).
2. We will do our best to stay in tune, but won't do too much about that since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
3. As consummate gentlemen, we will continue to let the Basses feel like they're the most important part of the group, even though without the melody they would have nothing to harmonize.
4. As we focus on shaping and caressing the song, if we forget a word (or all of them), we won't worry too much, since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
5. We will never allow a Baritone to sing louder than us, even when we're on the seventh. The melody must be heard!!!
6. We will be sensitive to the Tenor's need to feel special. We won't overdo it, though.
7. In a chorus, although we will do our best to follow the director, we realize that we have to take advantage of all of the opportunities in a song to show off our wonderful Lead voice. After all, that's what the audience has come to hear, right?
8. We will do our best to cover the fact that the Baritone has a weak, emaciated instrument, otherwise he'd be singing Lead.
9. When in doubt, pitch it up!!!
10. When a Coach/Director advises us that we were under pitch, or too loud, we will always nod appreciatively, all the while knowing that we were just doing what the Composer/Arranger originally intended (even if the Coach/Director IS the Composer/Arranger).

Next month—another part.

Guest Nights/Open Houses

Call them what you will, but we plan to have them July 24 and 31, and Aug. 1. The first will be a follow-up to our booth at the Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival; the second will fall on the fifth Wednesday in July, so anything can happen. We need guests to make it fly.

You know what to do: bring a guest (or two) each night—or give **Kevin Jones** the names and phone numbers of your prospects, so that he can contact them directly. Our chapter's future depends on the success of this membership drive.

Quartet News

Alchemy: They will compete in the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 16-18. Then they have a 50th anniversary celebration in Lake Tahoe, Nev., Aug. 22-25.

Chordmasters: They'll sing at the Waukegan Senior Center Saturday, July 27, and at the Devonshire Retirement Home in Hoffman Estates on Sunday, Aug. 4. They will also add some harmony to the ASAP Corporation annual picnic in Buffalo Grove Saturday afternoon, Aug. 24.

Hospitality: They entertained members of the Logan Square Lions Club at the group's annual dinner in Chicago Friday evening, July 12. They're gearing up for a performance Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Alpine Club in Round Lake.

Golden Boys: Haven't heard much about them, but they performed a couple of songs at the Interchapter Bash on June 12. (So did **North Shore Four**.)

North Shore Four: They (Mimura-Remien-Prieto-Schlesinger) will entertain residents at Lincolnwood Place in Lincolnwood Sunday evening, Sept. 22.

It's been a while since we've listed quartets' Web site addresses—now that **Hospitality** has changed theirs, here's the latest update:

Alchemy:
www.alchemyquartet.com

Chordmasters:
chordmasters.4t.com

Golden Boys: no site

Hospitality:
www.harmonize.ws/hospitality

North Shore Four:
www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat/ns4.html

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • July 2002

“Always do the
right thing—
this will gratify
some folks and
will astonish
the rest.”

—Mark Twain

Still Looking for Arrangements?

If you have read through all the published, stock selections in the Music Catalog 2000, you aren't done yet! Modern technology's allowed another option. Go to the Society website, www.spebsqsa.org, and look through the index of links on the left side of the home page.

Click on "Songs" under "Music & Education" to find a page dedicated to the catalog 2000, to new arrangements added to the Legal/Unpublished files since the catalog's publication, to the free music available, and to the barber-shop arrangers' list maintained by **Debi Warwick**.

—from SPEBSQSA *LiveWire*

'Liner Notes

♪ We wish **Phil Schwimmer** a speedy recovery from his upcoming surgery and other ills that are keeping him from barbershopping during the next few weeks. If you'd like to cheer him up with a phone call or card, his address is 3432 Salem Walk E., #AG, Northbrook, Ill. 60062; phone: 847/298-4283.

♪ In case you haven't had your fill of Phils in the news, **Phil Martin** invites all his friends and their guests to a piano recital he will present at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4, at Lake Street Church of Evanston, 607 Lake St. (at Chicago Ave.), Evanston. Admission is free, and he will perform

works of **Chopin, Brahms, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff**.

- ♪ Congratulations to **Tom McCracken** on receiving his 50-year-membership pin from the Society.
- ♪ Former **Shoreliners** we ran into at International in Portland and who send their regards: **Ed Meyer** and **John Miller**.
- ♪ Thanx to **Marvin Pitluk** for his help in auditing the chapter's books for 2001.

