



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!)

June 2003

27 Members

Volume 31, Issue 6

It looks as though we may finish 2003 having done more public **Shoreliner Chorus** performances this year than we have had in the last couple of years combined. It would be nice if that came to be. Thanks to our members for making yourselves available for these performances. We know how important a part of barbershop life performing is, and we will keep trying to find more opportunities for the Shoreliners to thrill audiences with our brand of harmony.

Heigh Ho, Come to the Fair!

We mean the Custer Street Fair. For the first time in many years, the **Shoreliner Chorus** will sing at the Custer's Last Stand Festival of the Arts. This is a major performance at a major festival that draws thousands of attendees, so we want to look and sound our best.

Date: Saturday, June 21

Location: Jazz Stage, on Chicago Ave. just south of Main St., Evanston.

Warmup: 10 a.m. SHARP at the lower level of the Main Street Metra station, 600 Main St. It's just south of Main St. in the alley between the Metra and CTA tracks.

Performance Time: 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Parking: Use the parking lots behind Good's of Evanston (art supplies) and Vogue Fabrics, 714 and 718 Main St., respectively. The lots will be police guarded.

Attire: Chorus casual: blue pullovers, black slacks, black socks, black shoes.

Admission: No admission charge. The Festival is asking for free-will donations of \$1 each, but they are not mandatory.

Bring your family and friends, and plan to stick around to enjoy the exhibits and other performers.

Chapter Web Site Has New URL

North Shore Chapter's Web site has a new address on the Internet. Effective immediately, begin using the following URL to access our home page:

<http://evkhome.northstarnet.org/bflat>

The old URL, www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat, will no longer work. All the other charac-

teristics of our site (content, appearance, timeliness of information) remain the same.

If you have any questions, or experience any difficulties accessing our site, contact Webmaster **Joseph Schlesinger** by phone at 847/328-0921 or by e-mail at zinger99@juno.com (backup: schlesmail@yahoo.com).

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The July Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, July 6, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home, 3432
Salem Walk E., #AG, Northbrook. All chapter
members are welcome.

Chapter Web site:
<http://evkhome/northstarnet.org/bflat>
(Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

May/June Guests

Fred Abrams (Buenz)
Ted Briggs (Leaveck)

Special Insert in this Issue for Active Members Only

An updated version of the Farmers' Market schedule is included as an insert in this issue. Active North Shore Chapter members, please look it over, note what days you are committed to sing or work the crowd, and, if you have not yet informed me of your availability, please complete and submit a form to me as soon as you can. With your help and participation, we ought to have a great summer recruitment season.

Wha-a-at? Another Guest Night??

Yes! And this time we're going to do it right, by gum! With our big Custer Street performance added to our schedule, we just couldn't let the opportunity slip away to attract more potential members. So plan for a guest night/open house Wednesday evening, June 25. Please begin talking this up to your guests now—offer them a lift to meeting if you can—and let Membership Veep **Noble LeHew** know in advance who your prospects are.

We need new blood in North Shore Chapter, and this is one way to get it. Please carry your part.

COMING EVENTS

- North Shore Chapter:**
Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
Sat., 6/21—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Custer Street Festival of the Arts**, Chicago/Main shopping district, Evanston. See story on page 1.
Wed., 6/25—**Open House/Guest Night**—Same bat time, same bat station—bring 'em so we can ring 'em!
Sun., 6/29-Sun., 7/6—**65th International Convention**—Montreal, P.Q.
Sat., 7/19 or Sun., 7/20—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival**—Some time during the weekend at Dawes Park, Evanston.
Sun., 7/27-Sun., 8/3—**Harmony College/Directors College**—St. Joseph, Mo.
Sun., 8/10—**"Rain on the Hamburgers" Party**—3 p.m.-? at **Marty and Flora Steigman's** home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie.
Sun., 8/10—**Shoreliner Chorus Performance for Skokie Park District**—6:30 p.m. warmup; sing for 20-30 minutes starting at 7:00 at Devonshire Cultural Arts Center, 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.
Sat., 9/13—**Evanston Not-for-Profit Day at Farmer's Market**.
Sat., 10/11-Sun., 10/19—**Harmony Days in Evanston and Arts Week Evanston**—See story on page 1.
Sun., 10/12, 10/19, or both days—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance(s) for Arts Week Evanston**.

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

Elsewhere:
Fri., 6/20—**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

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.

Barbershop Craft: Singing In Tune—Part One

—Fred King (Dundalk, Md. Chapter)

The craft article that begins in this issue consists of nine chapters. It was written by **Fred King**, international coach, international quartet champion, international chorus director, arranger, and world-famous MC. Freddie has agreed to share some of his coaching tips with us. This is the beginning of a series of sections dealing with singing in tune. Although the presentation was written from the standpoint of coaching, we should be able to apply it to ourselves, thus, in effect, becoming our own coaches.

Chapter 1

Perhaps one of the biggest problems faced by coaches is the quartet or chorus which continually or even occasionally sings out of tune. It is interesting to note that Brahms gave up directing a choral group of ladies in Hamburg, Germany, because they could not stay on pitch. This article will not attempt to deal with sharp singing. Even though sharp singing is an occasional problem, the overwhelming preponderance of tuning problems has to do with flatting.

Actually, there are two kinds of flatting problems. The first is where the voice parts stay in tune with each other, but the entire quartet or chorus flats uniformly from the starting pitch. The second is where the voice parts sing out of tune with one another as well as flatting the given pitch. What are some of the reasons singers tend to sing flat, and what can the coach do about them?

First of all, many singers fail to start on pitch. This is due to lack of attention. Each singer must learn to hear the correct pitch before he attempts to sing it. It is very important for the singers to learn to listen to each other. The greatest degree of pitch accuracy occurs when a singer develops a concept of the way his voice sounds to others, because it is then possible to tell when he is singing out of tune.

Once the quartet starts on pitch, insist that each member energize himself. Listless body attitudes will cause flatting. Correct posture is essential, but not enough.

There is a vast difference between erect and alert. The singers must have a good mental attitude and look happy in order to sing in tune. If the quartet consistently flats, try raising the pitch one-half step or even a whole step. The added energy required to produce their voices may keep them on pitch.

Chapter 2

Assuming the quartet started on pitch and energized enough to prevent flatting, let's go on to the next step. This is correct voice production. Incorrect tone quality and production can block the hearing so that a singer is unaware of singing flat. This is a real biggie in the inexperienced chorus or quartet man.

The first step in correcting the faulty tone is to have the singers open the resonators so that the tone will be supported by the breath. Let's backtrack a minute and talk about resonance and the location of the resonators.

Resonance is the amplification and enrichment of a fundamental tone emanation from the larynx. The resonators are the pharynx, mouth and nasal cavities. (Some authorities also consider the apranasal sinuses, the trachea, the bronchi and the chest cavity to be part of the resonating system.)

These are shown in Figure 1. They are located on each side and above the vocal cords (or more correctly vocal folds) and their job is to amplify the vibrations produced by the vocal cords, and to increase their intensity as they are projected from the larynx. The resonance cavities are divided into two classifications: fixed and adjustable. The nasal cavity is fixed, while the pharynx and the mouth are capable of special use. More on these will be covered in next month's installment.

—from Dundalk, Md. Chapter *Charivari*,
Tom Wheatley, editor

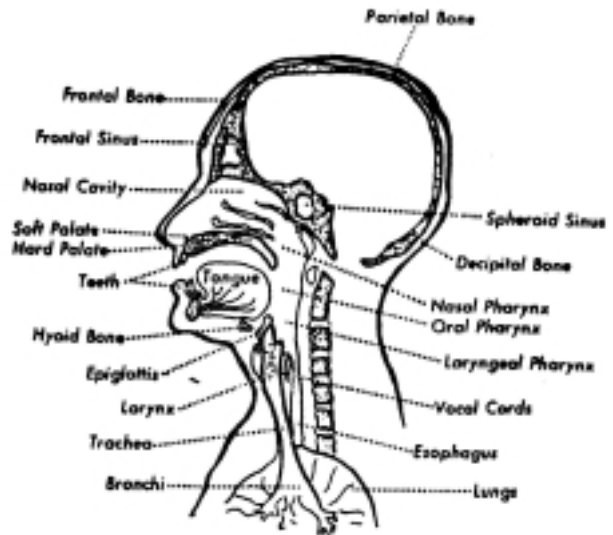


Figure 1.

Failed Products from Harmony Hall

—Andrew Borts (Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Chapter)

Now—I'm going to tell you guys about some products that didn't make it out of Harmony Hall (THANK GOODNESS!!) when someone with a bigger head than me (no comments from the peanut gallery PLEASE!), decided to ax these losers before introducing them in the Harmony Marketplace . . .

- **The AIC Show of Champions Boxer Shorts Calendar!** YES, BANNED from Europe—and we almost sold it here!—You get to see your favorite quartets wearing nothing but a smile, and a pair of loose fitting boxers! Throw your imagination out the window, 'cause you're going to learn LESS about how these guys sing, and more about how they are REALLY (and most that are NOT REALLY) built!! Look for the Seniors AIC Show of Champions Tight Jeans Calendar In 2005!! "I had NO Idea that the guys from **The Gas House Gang** worked out so much!!" quotes one Sweet Adeline woman that downloaded a preview copy from KaZaa . . .
- **Quattro Baris or the Four Baris CD!!** Yes, singing your barbershop-ping favorites without a single HINT of the Melody (OR A CHORD!)—not a one, but these four sing that harmony part like there's NO tomorrow!! One of the singers was quoted as saying, "We're going to KICK those three tenors' BUTTS!!!! WE OUTNUMBER THEM, TOO!!!!"

- **Toilet Brush tuning fork!** Clean out that NASTY bowl, and tune up a chord!! This is to be used in EMERGENCIES ONLY, in case everyone FORGETS THEIR BLOODY PITCH PIPE!!!
- **Barbercize!! The Barbershop Polecat, and VERY low impact Exercise video!** Want to see those guys with the straw hats and striped jackets SWEAT!! Some exercises are Tenor Predominant, Lead Predominant, Bari Predominant, or Bass Predominant—so DO TUMMY CRUNCHES, and learn another song! Getting tired of doing pushups to the Lead part? Change to the Jumping Jacks with the Baris!!
- **The Combination TV-Remote Electronic Pitch Pipe!** This product will never be released due to its changing the TV station from the football game to the home shopping network, while trying to tune up "Dinah!," so the Quartet had to pitch the song down five keys just to keep the game on.
- **The "Keepsake" Screaming Tag Car Horn!!** "Get out of my way buddy!!" [Horn Smash] "Liar Liar, Pants on Fire! HUH-LIE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
- **The very first, Clear Tuxes!!** Want to look stylish while doing that barbershop performance at the local nudist colony? These are NOT for Society-sanctioned contests, but are allowed at afterglows. Clear Underwear sold separately.

- **The Barbershop Songbook of contestable Rap favorites!** Ever imagine "Ice Ice Baby" with a Chinese 7th chord?!? The "I Like Big Butts" song with a power tag! It's all here AND MORE!!
- **And finally—Snoop Doggie Dog's "Barbershoppers Gone Wild!" video!** No previews are necessary (OR WANTED!!); however, there were 1,000 beads found in EXACTLY Joe Connelley's size . . . we can call him "bead boy!" from now on . . .

As soon as I hear about more of these products, I'll let you guys know!

—Forever in Harmony,
Andrew Borts

Creator of *Postagra*™, *Kiberagra*™, *Pitchagra*™, *Tagagra*™ and *GlassOAgua*™

Music VP for 2003 and Lead Fort Lauderdale Sunshine Chordsmen Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

And also:
Lead—Fermata

—seen on the Harmonet

Seriously, though . . . the Society's Harmony Marketplace is an excellent source of barbershop arrangements, recordings, learning materials, accessories, and apparel. If you haven't done so lately, take a look at the Harmony Marketplace catalog, or visit the Harmony Marketplace page on SPEBSQSA's Web site (www.spebsqsa.org).



We haven't much to report on Evanston Harmony Days, except to say that the date for our chorus performance is questionable. A Shoreliner Chorus performance will definitely be part of the event, but, due to problems encountered in securing a venue, it might be Sunday afternoon, Oct. 12, or Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19, OR BOTH DAYS. Please be prepared for the last possibility—we'll keep you posted.

“How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.”

—George Washington Carver

Did You?

—Ed Hinkley (Assistant Chorus Director, Sarasota, Fla. Chapter **Chorus of the Keys**)

- Did you call a friend and offer to pick him up and take him to chapter meeting?
- Did you offer to sit in the role of buddy for a new visitor?
- Did you spend some extra time working on the new music so that your contribution at rehearsal will help speed up the learning process?
- Did you practice your stage face in front of the mirror?
- Did you help the librarian distribute the new music?
- Did you offer to help make learning tapes for all the guys who don't read music?
- Did you set an example in your section by keeping conversation to a minimum?
- Did you compliment the new man on his performance at the last singout?
- Did you hold out your hand and smile at the guys coming in the door?
- Did you sing all the notes and words in the new song....correctly?
- Did you help set up the risers for rehearsing the new choreography?
- Did you find it hard getting to sleep after the great rehearsal?

How many of these things are on your check list?

—Taken from *Harmonet e-mail list, June 19, 1999, and used by permission (from PROBE Web site)*

“From the Top”

The paradigm for a successful chapter, as expounded by our Northbrook Chapter colleagues, is constructed around the three Ms: Members, Music, and Money. Each is equally important.

In previous “From the Top” columns, I’ve harped on the necessity of improving our musicality and building our membership. But I’ve been silent on the subject of money. It’s just as important as the other two components, and now I need to speak up.

Last month our Board reviewed the chapter’s budget for 2003, and the picture is not good. This year’s budget will result in a sizable deficit if we do not do something to raise the amount of our shortfall.

For most of its history, our chapter produced an annual show. Our most successful show, in 1979, netted \$5,000. That was when we had more than 30 active members. Now our manpower is at about half that level. We haven’t put on a show since

1998, and the last two lost money. We were bailed out by angels in our chapter who made up the shortfalls from their own pockets.

Historically, we have been able to depend on the **North Shore Four** to bring in \$1,500 to \$2,000 in paid performances each year, with another \$500 to \$1,000 in paid **Shoreliner Chorus** performances, but the opportunities for paid gigs have become scarce with the sluggish economy.

As an example, to make up this year’s budgeted shortfall, we would need for the quartet to sing 10 hour-long paid performances or 19 half-hour paid performances, or for the chorus to sing six hour-long paid performances. Given our members’ personal schedules, there’s just no way that can be done.

Still, we need to pay our director, to fulfill our financial obligations to SPEBSQSA, to pay for music and supplies, to cover production and postage

for the *Harmony Rag*, and to pay for chorus coaching. Right now, there is not enough in our treasury to do all that.

I have appointed a Ways and Means Committee, consisting of our entire Board, but we need ideas—lots of them. Please think of some fundraising projects for us and propose them to the Board member of your choice. All reasonable ideas will be considered, but we will give top priority to anything that involves singing, since that is what we do best.

And please make an extra effort to scout out opportunities for paid performances.

As a North Shore Chapter member, you have a right and obligation to be aware of your chapter’s financial health. Ask **Ed Price** for the latest treasurer’s report and a copy of our budget.

—Joseph Schlesinger
President

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Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • June 2003

If you jog in a jogging suit, lounge in lounging pajamas, and smoke in a smoking jacket, WHY would anyone want to wear a windbreaker??

Go Hog Wild with Harmony

Celebrating Harley-Davidson's 100th birthday August 2003 in Milwaukee? Incorporate a "ride in," tour and special reception at SPEBSQSA's beautiful Harmony Hall in nearby Kenosha. Contact **Marty Wise**, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Chapter for details: mwise@psualum.com.

—from SPEBSQSA
Live Wire
Reed Sampson, editor

**Keep a SONG
In Your HEART
And
Keep Your HEART
In the SONG**

International Convention Webcast

SPEBSQSA *Live Wire* (Reed Sampson, editor) informs us that all the Montreal events—quartet and chorus contest sessions, AIC show, World Harmony Jamboree and collegiate quartet contest—will be put up on the Web. The complete webcast schedule is posted on the convention web site at:

http://www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_id_053254.hcsp

North Shore Chapter, SPEBSQSA is a proud supporter of Harmony Foundation and EISMA.

Quartet News

Alchemy's Web site shows a busy schedule, but many details have been omitted. They performed at a bat mitzvah on May 31 and a corporate party on June 11. They also entertained a lunchtime crowd at Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago for the city's Bike to Work Day Rally on June 13.

Hospitality will stroll and sing at the Custer's Last Stand Festival of the Arts, in the Main St./Chicago Ave. business district of Evanston, Saturday afternoon, June 21, from 12:15 to 1:15.