



the north shore harmony rag



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

North Shore Chapter,
SPEBSQSA
(The Barbershop
Harmony Society)

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

November/December 2004

25 Members

Volume 32, Issue 11

Our Entertainment 2005

book sales are drawing to a close.

Chairman Pete Brandt informs us that a total of 32 books were sold, bringing \$128 into our chapter treasury.

North Shore Chapter Takes a New Direction

The chapter Board has voted unanimously to accept the music team's recommendation to start a new men's chorus within North Shore Chapter to replace the **Shoreliner Chorus**.

Under the new plan, membership in the new chorus will be restricted to members of North Shore Chapter; however, members who wish to join the chorus must demonstrate that they can perform the notes, lyrics, and choreography of the repertoire songs at an acceptable level of artistry.

Therefore, the procedures for qualifying members of the performing chorus still remain to be worked out by the music team and whoever we engage as our musical director.

Paul Mimura (chairman), **Bill Gallagher**, and **Joseph Schlesinger** constitute the director search committee, and they have begun compiling a list of possible director candidates. In addition, directors, assistant directors, associate directors, and aspiring directors are being

invited to guest direct at one of our chapter meetings. We welcome suggestions from members who may have some candidates in mind, but our first priority is to look at individuals within the barbershop community.

See "Questions and Answers Regarding Our New Chorus" on page 3 and the results of the chapter questionnaire on page 4.

Your nominating committee is pleased to present the following slate of chapter officers for 2005:

President: Paul Mimura
V.P. of Membership & Chapter Development: Joseph Schlesinger
V.P. of Music & Performance: Rick Prieto
Secretary: Martin Steigman
Treasurer: Edward Price

The slate will be announced at the Dec. 8, 15, and 22 chapter meetings. Nominations from the floor may be made at the Dec. 15 and 22 meetings; any North Shore Chapter member in good standing is eligible to be nominated, provided he has consented to be nominated. The elections will be held on Dec. 22. Also on that night, ballots will be cast for the 2004 Tom Buckley Barbershopper of the Year Award.

--**Joseph Schlesinger** (Nominating Committee Chairman)
Phil Martin
Rick Prieto

Reminder: There will be no chapter meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 29.

However, our neighbors at Chicago Metro Chapter will meet that night, and they cordially invite all Barbershoppers and non-Barbershoppers to visit their meeting for an evening of barbershop harmony during the holiday hiatus. The place is Sokol Community Center, 4855 N. Elston Ave., just north of Lawrence Ave., in Chicago. Their meetings usually start at 7:45 p.m.

Inside This Issue . . .

North Shore Chapter Takes New Direction • Slate of Officers for 2005	1
Calendar • Guests • Chapter History: Our Chorus Name	2
Questions and Answers About Our New Chorus • Quartet News • Overtones	3
Member Questionnaire Summary	4-6
Chapter Directory Update • New Barbershop Association Formed	7
Another Cautionary Tale	8

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
 Martin Steigman — 847/675-9223
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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
 The December Board meeting is scheduled for
 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, **Dec. 28**, at **Marty Steigman's**
 home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter
 members are welcome.

Chapter Web site:
<http://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.

October/November/December Guests

John Albergo (former member)

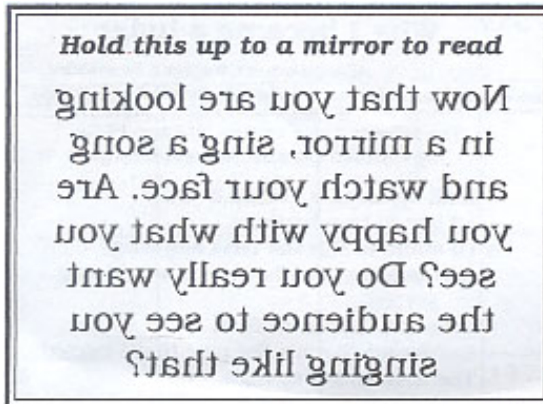
COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
 Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
 Sat., 12/18—**Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army**—11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard St. (just east of the North Shore Sanitary Canal), Evanston.
 Sun., 1/23-Sun., 1/30—**65th Annual International Midwinter Convention**—Jacksonville, Fla.
 Fri., 2/4-Sat., 2/5—**IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony)**—Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria.

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

Elsewhere:
 Fri., 12/17—**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



Chapter History: Our Chorus Name

Since the **Shoreliner Chorus** name may soon pass into oblivion, we thought it might be timely to recount the history of our chorus' name during our 59 years of existence. Actually, we have been planning this article for some time, but were unable to find any present or former chapter members still extant who could provide much specific information.

According to old Illinois District directories, mentions in *Attacks & Releases*, and other documents, our chorus was originally named the **North Shore Chorus**, and it retained that name for many years. Some time in the mid 1960s—no records are available that indicate

continued on page 6—see History

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.

“There is no joy without hardship. If not for death, would we appreciate life? If not for hate, would we know the ultimate goal is love? At these moments you can either hold on to negativity and look for blame, or you can choose to heal and keep on loving.”

—Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

Questions and Answers Regarding Our New Chorus

*Will the new North Shore Chapter chorus be a competitive organization like **New Tradition**?*

Only if the majority of members want it to be, but that is not our goal at this time. Since our chapter Vision Statement says we want to perform for the public, the new chorus will focus on developing enough proficiency and artistry to give public performances with confidence.

*Will the new chorus keep the **Shoreliners** name?*

Only if the majority of members of the new chorus want to. However, it is your editor’s feeling that a new chorus with a new philosophy ought to adopt a new name to go with its new identity.

How will we obtain members for the new chorus?

Our chapter officers believe there are enough men in the North Shore communities who like to sing that we can attract them through targeted promotional efforts announcing our new chorus. First, however, we need to have a

director in place with the capabilities and personality to develop our chorus into the type of organization we want it to be.

*Will current **Shoreliner Chorus** members automatically become members of the new chorus?*

No. All individuals who wish to join the new chorus must pass some kind of audition. We intend for the auditions to be relatively easy for reasonably competent singers to pass; and we would like to offer all who wish to join the encouragement and assistance that will enable them to qualify.

What about contest?

At this time, contest is not our main objective, nor do we intend to compete in spring 2005. Instead, we will focus our efforts on building our new chorus. Since competition is a very specialized form of performance, it is likely that we will want to re-enter the contest cycle at some time in the future, but our primary concern is to develop our entire repertoire to the same consistent level of artistry.

Quartet News

October and November were replete with chapter shows for **Alchemy**, and so is December, with Black River Falls, Wis. on Oct. 9; Carbondale on Oct. 16; Okaw Valley on Nov. 6; and the Chicagoland West Suburban (West Towns) holiday show on Dec. 10 and 11.

Chordmasters charmed young and old in October: first was a Young Men in Harmony presentation at Huntley High School on Oct. 6, and then a performance at the Bartlett Senior Service Center on Oct. 8.

When Chicagoans do their grocery shopping at the Lincoln Park Zoo lion house, you can count on **North Shore Four** (Mimura-Prieto-Schwimmer-Schlesinger) to be there harmonizing. Strange as it seems, the quartet made an appearance at the Green City Market Saturday morning, Nov. 13. They will give a private performance in Chicago Tuesday night, Dec. 14, as part of a fundraiser for the Cradle, an Evanston-based private, nonprofit child welfare agency.

Barbershop Craft: The Lowdown on Overtones

(We spotted this memo on the Harmonet several years ago and thought it would be timely to publish it now.)

From: John Santora
Subject: Re: [bbshop] Can somebody help me?

on 9/21/00 9:51 AM, **Laura G Slabaugh** at becauseoffhim@yahoo.com wrote: I also joined because I am trying to research something and hoped one of you could point me in the right direction. I am trying to find out what causes the ‘buzz’ when singers are in perfect harmony. Does anyone know the scientific explanation for this? Can you suggest any books, websites,

or other resources that might explain it? Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my request!

Laura

Hello, Laura

This is a topic that is widely discussed in our hobby and is one of the key elements of the judging methodology in our contests. Only, we call it “expansion of sound” or “ringing” instead of “buzz.” It means creating overtones (and sometimes undertones) with four voices so that the listener “hears” additional notes that are not actually being sung.

It is a phenomenon of a cappella singing, in that it requires “just intonation” which is a musical scale that has exact mathematical relationships between the notes in a chord. Accompanied singers are forced to use the “tempered scale” used by pianos which is a compromise that allows a song to be played in many different pitches, yet still sound “in tune” to our ears. For this reason, “ring” or overtones are rarely heard in accompanied music (except for **Pavarotti**, of course).

Continued on page 7
—see OVERTONES

Summary of Responses to North Shore Chapter Questionnaire—September 2004

Number of completed questionnaires received: 9 -- plus, **Gary Goodfriend** submitted some random comments

Q1. What aspect of North Shore Chapter is most influential in keeping you active in the group?

- Getting to sing with everyone
- Quartet and chorus singing
- Loyalty - Music
- Liking to be around most types of vocal music.
- Learning to sing reasonably well and enjoying the weekly sessions, happily harmonizing with good fellows!
- Acapella singing.
- Opportunities to sing interesting music well & quartet opportunities
- Quartet singing
- This was my first chapter and I have something of an allegiance to North Shore. I also firmly believe the Shoreline Chorus has potential it's not living up to and always wanted to be part of making that happen.

Q2. What potential change(s) to North Shore Chapter would increase your enjoyment of participating in this organization?

- More members - more quartet singing
- More public performances, more members - good director
- Good question - no spontaneous answer comes to mind
- More socializing, more chorus singing, less emphasis on quartet singing, increased exposure to learning to vocalize and harmonize well, less serious emphasis on "business" aspects.
- Focus on entertaining all participants - singers, and audience
- Dynamic & knowledgeable director. Several more members who can sing & who respect musical values.
- More enjoyable quartet singing; more artistry in chorus performances
- One of two things needs to happen - 1). The chapter membership needs to decide to be a group of guys who get together once a week for some fun with the intention of public singing (with the exception of Christmas Caroling) or competition. 2). The chapter membership needs to decide to COMMIT to being & doing everything necessary to become the 'B' level chorus that some of us know it can be. This commitment must be complete and not half baked.

Q3. If you are an inactive member, what potential change(s), if any, might compel you to become active with the group?

N/A -- all questionnaires returned were from active members only.

Q4. What potential change(s) to North Shore Chapter might compel you to leave the organization?

- If it becomes too much like boot camp.
- Any more reduction of members
- Another good question - perhaps if I disliked a large proportion of the music selected for us
- Too much insistence on perfection of singing for competition and routine singing of the same, old songs (leads to boredom and a sense of irritation)
- A change in meeting night - Wednesdays are perfect.
- Continuing as we are - i.e., no new members; no new director - no serious musical interest among members
- Elimination of quartet activities
- The lack of musical leadership and/or lack of direction.

Q5. What do you like best about Barbershopping?

- Singing, camaraderie, and growing musically
- Quartet singing
- Chorus singing - Public performances
- The camaraderie and being in a musical setting
- Chorus singing; harmonizing in group singing; improvement of singing; group singing for shows; fun and camaraderie.
- You can do it anywhere there are four singers.
- Singing music well
- Performing in public in a good quartet
- The musical style and the camaraderie.

Sacred Harp, also known as shapenote and fasola singing, will be part of an 1860s Holiday Open House to be hosted by the Evanston Historical Society at their headquarters in the Charles G. Dawes mansion.

The open house will be held Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12, at 225 Greenwood St. (just east of Sheridan Rd. Phone 847/475-3410 for more information, or visit the Evanston Historical Society Web site at www.evanston-historical.org.

Continued on page 5
—see QUESTIONNAIRE

We have learned that **Power Play (2003 International Champs)** are scheduled to appear on the **Jane Pauley Show** on **Thursday, Dec. 23.** Check the show's Web site (www.thejanepauley-show.com/watch) for national and Chicago-area air times and TV stations on which the show is broadcast.

Questionnaire (continued from page 4)

Q6. Rank the following types of chapter activities in LEVEL of importance to you (0=not interested/not important, 1=slightly important, 2=somewhat important, 3=very important, 4=most important, 5=essential to my continued involvement in this chapter, NA=not applicable/no opinion)

- Items ranked "5":

Chorus rehearsal (2), Craft sessions (2)

Informal quartet activities (1), Learning new music (1), Outside coaching (1), Public chorus performances (1), Socializing at chapter meetings (1)

- Items ranked "4" or "5":

Chorus rehearsal (4)

Craft sessions (2), Informal quartet activities (2), Public chorus performances (2), Structured quartet activities (2), Vocal warmup (2)

Annual show (1), Contest (1), Learning new music (1), Outside coaching (1), Sectional rehearsal (1), Special chorus rehearsal (1) [with comment: "Only if competing or preparing for a chapter show"]

- Items ranked "0":

Annual show (2), Business meeting (2)

Contest (1), Sectional rehearsal (1), Special chorus rehearsal (1)

- Items ranked "0" or "1":

Business meeting (3) [one response ranked "0-1"; for tabulation, we chose higher number], **Special chorus rehearsal (3)** [one response ranked "0-1"; for tabulation, we chose higher number].

Annual show (2), Social events outside of chapter meetings (2), Sectional rehearsal (2), Structured quartet activities (2) Contest (1), Informal quartet activities (1), Socializing at chapter meetings (1), Vocal warmup (1)

Average rankings:

- Chorus rehearsal: 4.0

- Public chorus performances: 3.4 (one response included "& quartet" following "chorus")

- Craft sessions: 3.2

- Informal quartet activities (e.g., woodshedding, tag singing, pick-up quartetting): 2.8

- Learning new music: 2.8

- Socializing at chapter meetings: 2.8

- Outside coaching: 2.7

- Vocal warmup: 2.7 (one response added "(short)")

- Structured quartet activities (e.g., quartetting in front of the other chapter members): 2.6

- Contest: 2.3

- Sectional rehearsal: 2.3

- Social events outside of chapter meetings: 2.3

- Annual show: 2.0

- Business meeting: 1.7 (one response ranked "0-1"; for tabulation, we chose higher number)

- Special chorus rehearsal (other than on regular meeting night): 1.0 [this item was not ranked on some questionnaires, possibly due to illegibility because of position at very bottom of page - one response ranked "0-1"; for tabulation, we chose higher number]

Q7. Check the statement in each group that most accurately expresses your feelings:

- I would prefer to see our chorus' repertoire consist primarily of square barbershop arrangements. (0)

- I would like us to add more variety of musical styles to our chorus repertoire. (4)

(one respondent added "a few" before "more variety")

- I like the current balance of barbershop and nonbarbershop songs in our repertoire just as it is. (4)

- I feel most of the songs in our repertoire are too difficult for me to sing. (0)

- I would like to see more sophisticated and challenging arrangements added to our repertoire. (2)

- I feel the current repertoire is just right for me--neither too simple nor too difficult. (4)

(one respondent indicated "not an issue" to these three selections, but added "I would like to broaden the repertoire")

Continued on page 6
—see QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire (continued from page 5)

Additional Comments:

- I think the traditional and more contemporary can comfortably coexist. I like to sing both.
- If there is any further reduction of members without an increase in members I feel the chapter should be dissolved or merged with another chapter.
- Consideration of small dues collections for the chapter from members. Elimination of the "Raffle." Improving the number and types of outreach functions and locations to perform, as a group. (This may bring more members). Additionally, newer songs may appeal to some younger, potential members. They also add variety, which enlivens the singers! Lastly, happy singers tend to sing happily. They do not tighten up and they show more positive presentation and vocal quality. (Less tightness in the throat and better, easier breathing results in more natural sound.) I do believe that "Teaching the Children and People to Sing (and enjoy it)" is a very proper goal for our chapter. We do need to reach out more to young and middle-aged people. When "Joy" is felt the message produces positive feelings and results!
- (1) Develop a repertoire for specific audiences: kids, seniors, small audience, large audience; (2) Broaden the repertoire; (3) Sing more talk less; (4) It would be great if every one knew the songs we sing; (5) Sing for audiences that like the music. I'm not sure farmer's market is worth the effort. (Outdoors - can't hear & not there for music - buying food) Sure kids seem to like it but they do not join the chorus.
- For me - we must be able to sing well & perform. This requires (1) new members who can sing & (2) a good new director. I very seriously doubt whether we can get either of these things. We should therefore seriously consider merging with another chapter. This will strengthen barbershop experience for our individual members.
- The key to a good chapter meeting is LESS TALKING & MORE SINGING - that goes for me, too!

Gary Goodfriend's comments:

- At a recent meeting, Joe, when discussing the future of the chorus, suggested one alternative could be a merger with another chapter, such as Arlington or Chicago Metro. I suggest that be an option to consider. It was rather remarkable to me that from the time I joined the chorus the first time and the time I have left the second time, there remains only one new active member—Larry Kohn. There really is no need to agonize over why; the reasons likely are many. Just this one fact should prompt a serious consideration for this. Chicago Metro seems to be more convenient and accessible; I certainly can't comment on its "personality," except for the one group sing we had earlier this year. Seemed okay to me.
- As we discussed, the emphasis on the spring competition seems to be a major "distraction" and demands too much time trying to perfect a mere two songs. Perhaps if the chemistry/size/even talent of the group were different, this may make sense. However, it just seems to me it would be more productive to drop this and devote time to improving and expanding the repertoire each and every week, with the goal for more local performances.
- Along those lines, when there is a performance pending, perhaps at least two rehearsals a week would be of benefit. I even think two meetings a week would be of benefit to all.
- Of course I am bias on this one, but one thought is to shift the quartet singing to the end for those of us not interested in participating. Yes, quartet singing each week is a joy for a the good number of the guys, but it also takes away from rehearsal time. If I recall, Northbrook rarely does this. Just a thought.

Chapter Directory Update

New address and phone:
 Dick Yanow
 646 W. Kristina Ln.
 Round Lake, IL 60073
 (847) 740-6381 / (847) 274-9100

Incidentally, we are working on an updated chapter roster, which we plan to distribute to all members before the end of the year.

History (continued from page 2)

exactly when—the **Shoreline Chorus** name appeared. During the 1970s the name changed to **Shoreliner Chorus**—whether this grew out of a corruption of the "Shoreliner" nickname for chorus members is unclear.

We have been told that the chapter Board made the Shoreliner Chorus name our official chorus designation, but we have been unable to find the specific

motion recorded in our chapter archives and cannot recall at which of the Board meetings in our 27 years of involvement the action was taken.

And that, friends, is the hazy history of how our chorus got its name.

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
 Chapter Historian

Last-minute holiday idea: barbershop CDs make great holiday gifts for your loved ones and friends. And, since you're special, too, why not give yourself a vocal warmup manual or a book about singing technique?

They're all available through our Society, either by ordering from your Harmony Marketplace catalog or online at the Society's Web site (www.spbsqsa.org). (Please note: Harmony Hall will close for the holidays at the end of the day Dec. 23 and will reopen Jan. 2.)

“Natural talent, intelligence, a wonderful education—none of these guarantees success. Something else is needed: the sensitivity to understand what other people want and the willingness to give it to them. Worldly success depends on pleasing others. No one is going to win fame, recognition, or advancement just because he or she thinks it’s deserved. Someone else has to think so too.”

—John Luther

Here’s a plausible explanation why the *Rag* is late this month:



New Barbershop Association Formed

Tom Neal, long-time Barbershopper and founder of the Barbershop Pioneers, announces the formation of a new barbershop organization, the National Barbershop Quartet Association (NBQA). Your editor neither supports nor condemns the new association, but we believe all current and former Barbershoppers ought to be aware of its existence.

The new association has been formed as a reaction to what its organizers see as dilution of barbershop singing within the Barbershop Harmony Society with other vocal styles, coupled with a growing sophistication in the practice of our hobby. Members of NBQA are modeling their organization on the pre-1960s

structure of SPEBSQSA, with emphasis on quartet singing, a return to the Society’s five-category judging system, and minimal administrative staff.

NBQA’s literature states that the organization is not trying to remove members from the Barbershop Harmony Society, but encourages those who wish to belong to both organizations to do so. At the same time, they hope to attract former Barbershoppers who still enjoy singing but have become disaffected with our Society.

For more information about NBQA, contact Tom at otneal@cox.net or phone him at 702/294-8400. Also, check out the Barbershop Pioneers Web site: www.Barbershoppioneers.com.

Overtones (continued from page 3)

This topic is the basis of a week-long course at our yearly Harmony College, called “The Physics of Sound” taught by **Jim Richards**. Here’s the description from the Course Catalog at <http://www.spebsqsa.org/HCDC/hcdc00cat.htm>: “WHAT IS SOUND? How is it produced? Study overtones, expanded sound, formants, word sounds and chord structure. Discover what makes barber-shop sound unique.”

Here are some additional references.

For a purely technical explanation of the physics of harmony and overtones, see <http://www.gprep.org/~music/musikbok/chap5.html> in the sub-section called “Musical Sounds and Overtones.”

Here’s a site that explains just intonation, <http://home.earthlink.net/~kgann/tuning.html>. It also has a good summary of the difference between just intonation and equal temperament scales.

There was a wonderful article in the May 1982 *Scientific American* titled “Singing in the Shower” (p. 172, the Amateur Scientist section— this doesn’t appear to be available on the web) that explains in general terms how overtones contribute to why we sound so good to ourselves when we sing in the shower (even better when a quartet sings in a large, ceramic-tiled washroom!).

Finally, do a search on any of the larger web search engines for “harmonic overtone” and you will find a surprisingly large number of sites with detailed technical and, sometimes, understandable information. You might want to narrow it down with a further qualifier of “singing” since harmonics are a fundamental physical principal in many areas beyond voice.

Good luck!
John

—**John Santora**
Candidate, Contest Administrator
President, Scarborough Dukes of Harmony, Toronto, Canada

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • November/December 2004

North Shore Chapter's 2005 Singing Valentines program most likely will be more modest than in past years. We're still looking for opportunities for the North Shore Four to perform on Feb. 14, as well as quartets to sing. Let us

Another Cautionary Tale

Singer Fined \$40

(Published Wednesday, November, 17, 2004 12:50PM)

MÉXICO CITY—A woman who fumbled a few phrases of México's national anthem while singing the song before a soccer game in Guadalajara has been fined \$40 for the blunder.

Guadalupe Madrigal acknowledged she got the words wrong while singing before an Oct. 30 soccer match between teams from Guadalajara and Monterrey, México's Interior Department announced Saturday in a written statement.

"She indicated she was sorry to have sung the national anthem poorly," the department

"She indicated she was sorry to have sung the national anthem poorly," the department announced. "She indicated that she did not do it on purpose or with bad intentions, but recognized that she had made a mistake."

Madrigal could have been fined as much as \$880 under Mexican law regarding the national seal, flag and hymn. Officials decided to apply a \$40 fine after taking into consideration Madrigal's economic situation—and the fact that thousands of spectators witnessed the performance.

—The Associated Press

(Submitted to the Harmonet by **Tom Emmert**)

There are three things you never want to see on a Christmas present:

"One Size Fits All"

"Fun for All Ages" and

"Removes Unwanted Hair"

Oh, and in the spirit of the season . . . I wish you whatever you wish me.

North Shore Chapter proudly supports
Harmony Foundation and EISMA.