



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!)

October 2003

27 Members

Volume 31, Issue 10

ADVANCE

NOTICE:

Our hosts at Presbyterian Home inform us that renovation of Elliott Hall will start on Nov. 15 and is expected to last at least three months. During reconstruction, we will meet in the Milligan Room, down the hall from our usual location. Chapter files and supplies will be moved, too, but the location of storage during that period is yet to be determined.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

Glad to have you with us! Enjoy the evening, and please come back again. We hope to see you next week, too.



October 11-19, 2003

We are now midway through our weeklong celebration of vocal harmony, and, boy, has it been strange!

Our performance on the Music Showcase last Sunday was very good, considering that many of our regulars could not be with us. The sparse audience turnout was disappointing, but who could have predicted that the Cubs would be in the playoffs?

Likewise, our venture into hosting a vocal workshop yesterday was a brand new undertaking; we're pleased that it actually came off, in light of all the adversities we encountered en route.

The real disappointment, though, was in setting up the vocal group performances at Evanston schools, senior homes, and hospitals.

Though we received a good response from more than half a dozen of these facilities, there just were no groups that could commit to performing during the day or evening this week, with one exception: **Gadzooks** will sing at the Mather Gardens tomorrow night (Thursday, Oct. 16).

But, we look ahead with hope: If everything goes according to plan, tonight should be an exciting guest night, and our big Vocal Showcase comes up Sunday. See page 2 for the performance schedule.

Shoreliner Chorus members should arrive at Unitarian Church of Evanston (1330 Ridge Ave.) no later than 2:30 p.m. Enter the parking lot from the south side of Greenwood St. We will warm up in Room 12, on the basement level.

Special thank-yous are in order for those heroes who came to our rescue this week:

- **Phil Martin** for his excellent job as acting chorus director for our Oct. 12th Music Showcase performance.
- **John Cain** for volunteering at the last moment to instruct the vocal workshop
- **Chordmasters** for contributing to our successful performance on Oct. 12.
- **Ed Price** for his financial contributions and generally making himself available to help out when needed.
- **Kevin Jones** for photographing some of the events for future public relations use.
- All our performers for volunteering their time and talent.

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The November Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home, 3432 Salem Walk E., #AG, Northbrook. All chapter members are welcome, and all newly-elected Board members are encouraged to attend.

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

Vocal Showcase Performance Schedule

Sunday, October 19, 2003
Unitarian Church of Evanston
1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 3:00-3:25 | Freshman Fifteen
(male a cappella group from Northwestern U.)
(25 minutes) |
| 3:25-3:50 | Aural Fixation
(mixed a cappella group from Northwestern U.)
(25 minutes) |
| 3:50-4:00 | Intermission
(10 minutes) |
| 4:00-4:10 | Community Singalong
(10 minutes) |
| 4:10-4:35 | Harmonettes
(female ensemble from Skokie)
(25 minutes) |
| 4:35-5:00 | Shoreliner Chorus
(25 minutes) |

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:

Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
Wed., 10/15 and 10/22—**Guest Night/Open House**—7:30 pm. at our regular meeting place: Elliott Hall, Presbyterian Home, 3131 Simpson St., Evanston.
Sun., 10/19—**Vocal Showcase**—3 p.m. at Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston. **Shoreliner Chorus** will be one of the performing acts. FREE!! Open to the public. (See page 1)
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., 10/17—**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.
Sat., 10/25—**Chicago Metro Chapter Show**—7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) at Irish-American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. Featuring: **Four Bettys** (Sweet Adelines International, Inc.), **Seriously, Chicago Metro Chorus**. Tickets: \$12 (food available for additional charge). For more information, call **Bill Gallagher** at 847/869-2707.

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

'Liner Notes

- ♪ Our hearts go out to **John Buenz** and his family on the death of his wife, **Olga** ("Oogie"). Though we knew Oogie for only a short time, while she was part of the North Shore family her sparkling and inquisitive spirit made quite an impression on all of us.
- ♪ Somewhere in Mexico—or somewhere else on this vast globe—someone may very well be strutting around proudly at this very moment in a **Shoreliner Chorus** formal costume. And that's all we're gonna say about that.
- ♪ Hope we speak for all members when we say: GO, CUBS!

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.

Reminder: As of Oct. 24, the new address for SPEBSQSA headquarters is:

SPEBSQSA
7930 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI
53143-5944

Phone numbers will remain the same.

You Practice Your Music! Why Not Practice Your Face?

It's been generally accepted that an audience reacts as much, if not more, to what it sees as it does to what it hears! We've all sat in the seats enough to have experienced both positive and negative reactions to what we see of the performer, whether it's the **Alexandria Harmonizers** or the **New York Philharmonic**.

We're supplied with sheet music, learning tapes, vocal coaching and every conceivable tool to help us learn the words and notes, but none of these addresses the issue that has a great deal to do with our success (or lack thereof) in reaching our audience, and that's your face.

Whether we realize it or not, every time we sing we practice our face, and practice, as we know, does not make perfect, it makes permanent! A quick look around the risers will all too often reveal that men are concentrating so hard on words and notes, timing, etc., that their faces

assume the appearance of intense concentration. That would be good if we sang songs whose lyrics had to do with that subject, but they don't! Moon, Spoon and June don't rhyme with scowl! If you want to know what you look like, here's a handy tool. It's called a mirror, and there's very likely one in your bathroom. Stand in front of it at least three times a week and mouth the words to a song. Every day is better. Does your face reflect the emotion (whatever it is) of the lyrics you're mouthing? Are you really smiling? Do you really look sad?

As you look at your face, without raising your head, lift your forehead! The whole upper part of your face should follow along. This will help raise the roof of your mouth and create a larger open space, which will increase your resonance as well. A side benefit, of course, is that it prevents you from frowning and makes it much easier to smile with your eyes.



Guaranteed, if you practice your face at home. You'll find it much easier to put that face on when you sing. If we all do that, our audience (AND THE JUDGES) will enjoy our performance more and our presentation scores will climb!

(This article was borrowed from *Scoops & Swipes*, **Clare McCreary**, bulletin editor, St Petersburg FL—who borrowed it from *The Twin Shorelines* bulletin, **Jim Ayers**, editor)

—seen in Orlando, Fla.
Chapter *Orange Slices*,
George Williamson,
editor

“From the Top”

Just wanted to thank all of you for your flexibility and cooperation during this crazy week. Not only did the National League playoffs and the Chicago Marathon draw our potential audience away from the Music Showcase on Oct. 12, but the ill-fated Tuesday night game also interfered with our Vocal Workshop. Except for **John Cain** (our instructor), **Bill Remien**, and me, no one else appeared. And with Game Seven on the schedule for tonight, I have no clue what the turnout at our open house will be.

When Fate calls the tune, sometimes you just have to play it by ear and hope for the best. Hang in there, guys!

Let's make whatever guests show up feel welcome, so that they can't wait to come back.

In the meantime, there may be some opportunities during the next few months for chorus performances at senior homes in Evanston on Wednesday nights prior to our meetings. I'm considering offering these as make-goods to the homes that were expecting vocal groups to visit and perform during this week, but for whom there were no groups available. For that reason, the chapter would not ask for any fees for these performances. Nevertheless, they would allow us to perform our best songs in front of a live, appreciative audience.

And—omigosh!—it's time to dust off the holiday repertoire. We are looking at Saturday, Dec. 20, as the date for our caroling around the kettle for Salvation Army. That's also the first day of Hanukkah.

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
President



P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • October 2003

"If we take people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat them as if they were what they ought to be, we help them to become what they are capable of becoming."

—Johann
Wolfgang
von Goethe

Answer the Call for Entertainment

PAVE (Performers Alliance for Veterans Entertainment), has received a request from The Veterans Fund to participate in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs in February of 2004.

The Barbershop Harmony Society is a charter member of PAVE and member choruses and quartets have already provided shows for hospitalized veterans through that organization.

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week covers the days just before and after February 14 each year. This is a busy time for our members, but it may be possible for several chapters to help in this very worthy en-

deavor. Some may even offer a gratis "Singing Valentine concert" at a nearby VA facility as a special gift from the heart. VA staff who have requested shows will gladly extend the "week" to more than seven days if that will facilitate scheduling one of our groups.

If you think it may be possible for your chapter or quartet to help, contact **Katie Brooks** at The Veterans Fund as soon as possible. Tell her what VA Medical Center is near you and she'll put you in touch with local VA staff members.

Katie Brooks
P.O. Box 160463
Nashville, TN 37216-0463
616/650-2076
KatieBrooks@veteransfund.com

If you schedule a concert, please let the PR Department know and be sure to get some great photos. Send your information to PRmedia@spebsqsa.org.

—from SPEBSQSA
Live Wire,
Reed Sampson, editor

(Sounds like a great idea for our chorus, doesn't it? We could possibly arrange a performance at Downey VA Hospital in North Chicago. The upside is that Feb. 14 falls on a Saturday next year; the potential downside is that we will most likely try to run an ambitious Singing Valentines program, and a chorus gig that day might preempt quartets from singing. Let's give it some thought.—J.S.)