

We salute: the quartet!

Riddle me this: when does two plus two not equal four?

Answer: when it's a quartet.

As anyone knows who has ever sung in a quartet, even a pick up, a quartet is more than the sum of its parts. Just as notes in a four-part chord generate overtones, so too the interaction between the four singers generates the quartet as a social entity all its own.

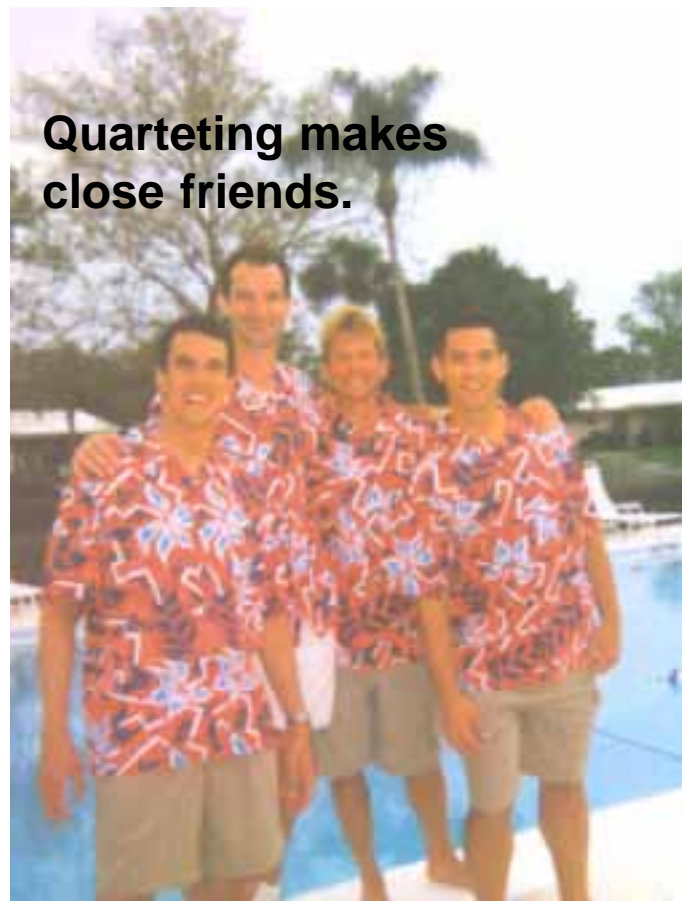
Before there was the barbershop chorus, before there was the barbershop chapter or society, there was the barbershop quartet. It is the basic unit, the musical atom of our artform. It is the version of our style most recognizable to the public; is there anyone among us who hasn't at point had to explain, "no, no, it's like a barbershop quartet, but with a whole bunch of guys on each part" ?

The need for a quartet is, they tell me, one of the things that makes barbershop unique. Other musical forms consist mostly of three-part chords, and so do not require four voices (even though they often use them anyway). But if you don't got four, it ain't barbershop.

So we dedicate this issue of The Echo to the quartet, without which there would be no barbershop. In this issue, our members discuss the joys of quarteting and its importance to the chorus and chapter. We're got for you:

a profile of one of our newest quartets,
an overview of opportunities to form and grow a quartet,
an analysis of our recent poll on chapter quarteting,
a history of the chapter quartet whose success sparke a total change in our chapter , a change that resulted in the gold-medal chorus we enjoy today.

Quarteting makes close friends.



For those who always want more, we've also got:
a musical astrophysicist;
a review of our chapter's showing at the recent District competition;
a preview of our fall show, guest starring Metropolis;
enough new guests to form a mid-sized chorus;
and, of course, an exploding boat.

So dive right into this month's Echo. And bring three other guys with you!



Guest Night was a Gas!

by Chad Foseth

The Alexandria Harmonizers enjoyed a wonderful evening of singing with their friends, co-workers, and fellow quarteters at a recent Guest Night. In fact, 30 men of various ages and backgrounds stopped by to see what the Harmonizers were all about.

Little did they know that they would become a featured attraction of the evening. Under the tutelage and direction of Will Cox, our guests performed the tag “In Dixie land where I was born” to roaring approval from the Harmonizers. Shortly thereafter, a local barbershop octet from Alexandria’s West Potomac High School performed “My Wild Irish Rose” with great enthusiasm. *Limited Edition*, the newest Harmonizer quartet, also showed off their stuff with two songs including a high-energy rendition of “Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia.” Those guys really demonstrated what the “Q” means in SPEBSQSA.

But the highlight of the evening was singing with the Harmonizers. Our new rehearsal venue, Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, is always a fun room to sing in. With another 30 guys on the risers, the sound was even bigger than normal. Since we are preparing for our Fall Show, our guests joined us on a wide range of our repertoire including Old St. Louie, God Bless America,



Battle Hymn, Armed Forces Medley and Hooked on Classics.

The evening was a great deal of fun for all. But like all fun things, there’s plenty of work that happens behind the scenes. Thanks to the following Harmonizers for making our Guest Night a success.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Terry Reynolds | Will Cox | Gary Bibens | Keith Field |
| Roger Day | John Pence | Carlos Bermudez | Rob Nutt |
| Jack McKendrie | Scip Garling | Sam McFarland | Gary Plaag |
| Terry Jordan | Ken White | Michael Quigley | Jack Pitzer |



The Joy of Quarteting

by Duane Gunn

Over the years, I have come to believe strongly in quarteting. When I first joined the society in 1994 I was attracted to the chorus and really didn't have a lot of interest in quarteting for a number of reasons. For one, it was very difficult to get a quartet going especially since I am in the military and constantly moving every 3 - 4 years. Second, quarteting can take a lot of work! Finally, I thought singing in a chorus was much more enjoyable. Why would I want to stand up their in front of a bunch of people with just three other guys? Why would anybody want to do something like that...are they crazy?

Well, I quickly changed my tune because of a number of reasons. For starters, quarteting has improved my confidence and my abilities as a chorus member. Second, I never knew how much fun it could be to ring a chord with just three other guys. Third, the camaraderie and friendships I have made being in quartets are friendships that last a lifetime. Finally, I did not realize the enjoyment and interaction you have with the audience being in a quartet.

My first introduction to quarteting was the fall of 1995. I was getting ready to sing with a non-barbershop chorus for the upcoming Disneyland Christmas Festival. Among the folks singing in this chorus were a lot of the guys I sang with in my first chapter, Santa Barbara. Dur-

ing a break, I went outside and Mike McGee, baritone and my director at the time, was singing with these other three guys who were just having a blast not only singing together but also entertaining the folks standing around. Little did I know that these guys were going to be singing at district later that month and would win.

By the way, I should mention, this quartet is Metropolis, our featured quartet for the Fall Show. Those four guys are the reason I sing in quartets. Their package that they did at district that fall hooked me because they were fun, energetic, enthusiastic and wanted you to be involved. From that moment on, I was hooked!



My first quartet happened unexpectedly. Santa Barbara was singing at a Christmas sing-out and one of the guys in the chorus always had what he called a "quartet de jour" on chorus shows. Basically, he asked 3 other guys to sing a couple of chorus songs with him during the show. I reluctantly (and by the way scared to death since I hadn't tried anything like this since High School) agreed to try. Let me tell, you the first time I sang

with him I knew I had to keep on doing this. It was just so much fun! That led to other pick-up quartets as well as my first official quartet in Denver and now singing with Limited Edition.

You, too, can be in a quartet, or at least get involved in the quarteting opportunities the Chapter provides. How? By reading the article on the next page...



How Can You Get Involved in Quarteting?

by Duane Gunn

So, how can you get involved in quarteting? First, let me know you are interested. Or mention you are interested in quarteting to Drew Fuller, Sam McFarland, or Bob Wachter. As the quartet sub-committee we are here to facilitate and make your quarteting experience enjoyable. The committee is putting together a list of folks interested in singing in quartets and we want to create a network for **you** so you can have as much fun as we do.

If you are interested in quarteting, please provide the following information to me via email jbgunn@earthlink.net or call me at home (703) 492-9981 any time day or night. Even if I am not at home, my wife is a barbershop junkie and will get your information to me:

- Your Name (first and last name):
- Part(s) you sing
- Type of quartet you are interested in (fun, competing, novice)
- Your quartet and singing experience
- Phone number
- E-mail address (if you have one)

Second, when you hear four other guys singing during breaks, before or after rehearsal, when they finish singing, ask them if you can sing with them. Try learning a tag. Sing a polecat with 3 other guys.

Third, and I think this is a huge opportunity, do "Singing Valentines". This gives you great experience and allows you to sing and give to



others who will be very appreciative during Valentines weekend. "Singing Valentines" gives you a chance to sing with a lot of different people in a short amount of time.

Finally, Jeremy Richardson is setting up the 1st Annual Wilbur Sparks Put-Together-Quartet Contest. [See related article on next page.] Volunteer to sing in this fun-filled event. It is a great time to sing in front of different folks in the chapter in a non-threatening environment.

Well, that is about it. Quarteting is something that can benefit you and ultimately benefits the chorus. In 2003, we will be adding quarteting more and more to chapter rehearsals. Get involved... volunteer... encourage others to sing in a quartet because SPEBSQSA Inc is about more than just chorus singing...it's about quarteting!



Put it Together!

by **Jeremy Richardson**

The First Annual Wilbur Sparks Memorial Put-Together Quartet Contest will be held this November 26!

The Harmonizer tradition of the Put-Together Quartet contest began some 30 years ago. The original idea belonged to Wilbur Sparks, and he organized and ran the contest every year. Over the years, he became known as “Dr. Put”, because he would “put” guys together who wanted to compete in the contest, and because he would make up names, often funny or embarrassing, for those quartets that did not come up with one on their own.

This year the contest will continue in Wilbur’s memory. It will be held during the chapter meeting on November 26. I believe, as Wilbur did, that this is an excellent opportunity to remind everyone what the “Q” in our Society’s acronym represents. I hope the contest will encourage everyone, especially those who do not sing in quartets, to try quartet singing. The contest has only two simple rules:

- 1) If more than two members of a put-together quartet are members of ANY registered quartet, only one may sing the same part he sings in the registered quartet—all others must sing a part different from the one they sing in the registered quartet.
- 2) Anyone is eligible to enter the contest, with the obvious exception of the judging panel. In the spirit of a true put-together contest, entries will be accepted up until the start of the contest. In other words, guests are encouraged to participate!

Following in the tradition of the contest, an outside quartet has been enlisted to judge the competition. To protect the guilty and add an element of mystery to the event, the identity of the quartet will remain secret until the

night of the contest. We also will be extending the tradition this year by having a fifth person on our judging panel. This panelist will be our fabulous artistic director, Geri Geis!

I have already heard reports of quartets forming and even rehearsing! I encourage all of you, even if you’ve never sung in a quartet, to get involved in this event. If you are having trouble finding some other guys to form a quartet, let me know and I will try to “put” people together. . And, the spirit of Dr. Put will be with me as I give names to those quartets who do not name themselves!

Although rule #2 stands, I encourage the competitors to file an entry form with me by the week before so that I can produce a program for the event. The entry forms will be available at the chapter meetings and also electronically. Please submit them to me or let me know of your intent to compete by Wednesday, November 20 in order to be included in the program.





Bede Bender entered Alexandria Hospital to have a spinal operation. His recovery seems to be going well. He was spotted at the Tuesday night rehearsal on Oct 8. Bede it's good to have you back!



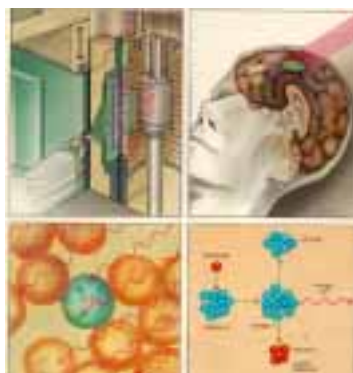
Royall Geis was stricken with what the doctors call a mild heart attack. He was hospitalized for about a week, but has now returned home and to the Harmonizers. Even though he is instructed not to sing for a while he is still attending our Tuesday night rehearsals. Welcome back Royall.



Len Dornberger entered the hospital in Delaware, where he lives, to have an appendix removed (his own, actually). Bob Eckman who spoke with him said he seemed in good spirits and is expecting him to be home and back to the Harmonizers in no time! Len hurry back!



Eric Sutton and Melissa Hall were married in Vienna, Virginia on June 15th. Eric, 28, is the son of Ruth and Bob Sutton, and was formerly a member of the Fauquier County, VA chapter of SPEBSQSA when "Dad" was the president and a charter member. The couple now resides in Ashburn, VA, where Eric is a systems engineer for Advanced Technology Systems of McLean, and Missy is a web designer with Hanley-Wood in Washington.



Lynn Andrew is undergoing focused beam radiation on his prostate cancer at Walter Reed Hospital for the next several weeks. Lynn, those of us that know you are pulling for you, so hang in there!



Our sincere condolences go to Bob Hirsh and his family for the loss of his Mother Mercedes Friedman, who passed away on September 22 at age 90. Bob our thoughts and prayers are with you!



Harmonizer Quartet Activity Shines Through at Wildwood

by Brad Jones

While the Alexandria Harmonizer chorus may have a bit of notoriety in the barbershop world, the chapter's quartets stepped forward at District to once again prove that our chapter adheres to the principal of encouraging barbershop quartet singing. Five quartets with Harmonizer members competed at District in Wildwood this year with an impressive set of results.

First out of the box in the preliminary round on Friday night was Freelancers with Rick Taylor from the Harmonizers. Showing their international level experience, they put on a great set with a "Flying Sinatra Medley" and a soulfully performed ballad "All Alone". Next up was Mercury, an all Harmonizer quartet featuring Nick Aiuto, Mike Schwartz, Arthur Louis, and Bob Sutton. In a crowd pleasing performance that had one female member of the audience exclaiming "I have a new favorite quartet!", they presented "I'll be Seeing You" and "Georgia Brown" with a level of excitement that clearly reached both the audience and the judges.

After a gap of a half dozen quartets, it was time for a trio of Harmonizer representatives. Leading off was Phat Cats with Harmonizers Scott Disney, Steven White, and Eddie Czenas. They performed the classic "What'll I Do" and finished with an energized rendition of "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee".

Bachelor Party (Greg Tepe, Terry Reynolds, Ken Rub and Scipio Garling) took over the stage next with a solid rendition of "Rock-a-bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" and closing with a heart-felt performance of "All Dressed Up with a Broken Heart". The final Alexandria-related quartet of the preliminary round was "ENCORE!" with Harmonizer Bob Caldwell. This new quartet got to the district contest when one of the original qualifi-

ers had to scratch, but they quickly proved they belonged on the stage in Wildwood with their renditions of "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" and "Take Me to the Land of Jazz".

As the Friday night Preliminary Round came to a close, the audience (including many Harmonizer friends and family) waited anxiously for the announcement of the 8 finalist quartets. When the announcement was made the Harmonizer Family had much to be celebrate. Three of the final 8 quartets would have Harmonizer representation with Mercury, Phat Cats, and Freelancers making the finals.

The finals on Saturday night proved once again the high quality of MAD quarteting. Mercury led off with "May I Never Love Again" and changed pace with "I Used to Call Her Baby". They were followed immediately by Phat Cats, who were in top form, performing "My Alabama!" and "Wedding Bells Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine". Freelancers performed next to last in the finals offering the crowd and judges its impressive versions of "Nice Work if You Can Get It" and "They Say Its Wonderful".

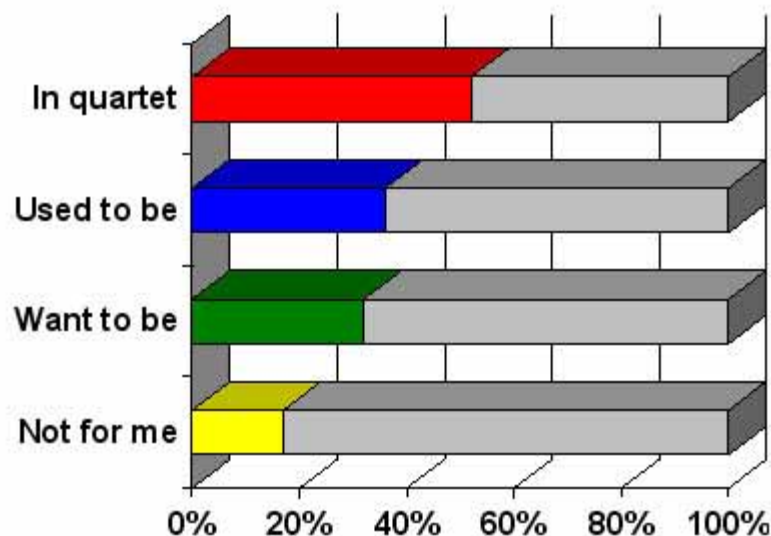
When the final results were announced the quartets with Harmonizer ties had acquitted themselves quite well. Freelancers were edged out for the District Championship by just 19 points by Wheelhouse, finishing in second place. Phat Cats continued to demonstrate its international caliber performance finishing in 3rd place. Mercury (to the delight of many proud family and friends) finished in 6th place in its very first District. Bachelor Party improved both scores and placement over last year's District, finishing in 13th place. Finally, ENCORE!, which had just made it into the District contest, showed they had been working hard since Division, finishing in 16th place in their first District competition. Congratulations to all the competing quartets on such a fine showing demonstrating once again that quarteting is alive and well in the Alexandria Chapter!



Our ‘Barber-Poll’ on chapter quartets!

To complement our other articles on the joys of quarteting, we conducted one of our new-fangled digital barber-polls, on (what else?) quarteting in the Chapter. We hope that this information will help spark more quartet activity in the Chapter.

So thanks for your response! As always, we offer not just the results, but our thoroughly unscientific and inexpert analysis for your consideration.



More guys than you might imagine are in quartets.

More than half of all respondents answered, “hey, I’m in a quartet now!” Do you know who’s in Heavenly Harmonies or Close Encounters of the Seventh Kind? Or what the name of Scott Werner’s new quartet is?

Okay now; enough of these ‘stealth’ quartets! For all those of you in quartets that have NOT yet been profiled in the Echo, please contact our quartet reporter, Brad Jones (at his e-mail, BWJ@nrc.gov), so that we can do an article on your foursome. We want everyone in the Chapter to recognize and be familiar with all our quartets!



“This is a blast; I wish I had started one years ago.”

“Yes, although I wish we were singing more.”

“The chorus would benefit from more quarteting members, and it would help us prepare for contests.”

“We have three pair of socks, and are shopping for the fourth.”



A third used to be in a quartet.

In addition to the guys who are now quarteting, a large number of guys have quartet experience. Often, they no longer have the time or the right partners to be in a new quartet. About seven percent answered that ‘their quartet days are behind them.’ Maybe these guys with experience, though, could help out the next group of guys...

“I’m almost always in a quartet! It’s the most fun, and brings the best friends!”

“But I have had frustration in finding other members with similar experience, standards, and commitment.”

“Maybe again, after the kids are grown.”

“But now we are looking for a baritone.”

A third would like to be in a quartet.

There were as many respondents who said they wanted to join a quartet as said they used to be in one. Some guys are just “waiting for the right mix.” But others would like some help in forming a quartet (and at least seven percent specifically said so). Have you sought the help of Duane Gunn, the chapter quartet promoter?

“I’d like to have a Harmonizer quartet.”

“I’ve been looking for a lead for some time.”

“I’d like a class where new quarteters learn from veterans and get experience. Now you need three guys to commit to you when you don’t any experience.”

Some feel quarteting’s not for them.

About 17 percent of respondents felt that quarteting’s not for them, either because of time, talent, or taste. But even those people often enjoy participating in Chapter quarteting events, like Valentine’s Day or the Put-Together contests.

“Just getting to chorus is a life challenge!”

“Not sure I’m a strong enough lead yet.”

“I’ll stick to Valentine’s Day and the Put-Togethers.”



Would you like to see your quartet profiled in The Echo? Well, first you have to form a quartet! The Echo wants to help! We will give **FREE** ad space to any chapter member who is seeking others with whom to form a quartet. The Echo is read by people outside the chapter, too, so it may be your vehicle for finding that elusive baritone. Submit your short ad text to the Echo editor at scipio.garling@verizon.net.



Overheard

Joe Barbershopper: "What's the secret of Terry Reynold's success?"

Harmonizer: "Apathy."



Maxine Millard fell recently and fractured a bone. She says it is quite painful. She was in the hospital for several days then on to a healing facility. She is home now and would love to hear from her extended family. Maxine missed her first District Competition in many many years because of this fall.

Maxine, we all miss your pretty face at rehearsal and wish you a rapid recovery!

Harmonizers Win Big at District competition in Wildwood, NJ.

By Roger Day

October 5, 2002, the Alexander Harmonizers took center stage at the new Wildwood Convention Center to perform their package for the District Competition, hoping for a win to move on to the International Chorus Championships in Montreal, Canada, July 2003.

As the chorus filed on stage, there was no curtain, and each man immediately assumed the scenario for the first song: "How Deep Is The Ocean/Remember". Our wonderful Director Terry Reynolds turned to us and gave a warm smile, then started his direction! At the end of the ballad many of the audience came to their feet in appreciation.

Then on to the up-tune "Alexander's Ragtime Band" Our main goal was to wow the judges and the audience. Well, at the end of the song everyone in the audience leaped to their feet with a roaring standing ovation! It just made you feel like all the hard work was worth it!

The Harmonizers sang in the 18th position during the competition. At the end of the competition the judges made their announcements of the winners. The Large Chorus Champions, and who will represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the International Chorus Championships in Montreal Canada July 2003 is the Alexandria Harmonizers.

For the results of the contest, see the next page.



District 2002 Chorus Scores

1st
The Harmonizers
(Alexandria)
1553 (86.5%)

2nd
Big Apple Chorus
(New York City)
1429 (79.4%)

3rd
Brothers in Har-
mony
(Easton, PA)
1428 (79.3%)

4th
The Virginians
(Richmond, VA)
1383 (76.8%)

5th
Keystone Capital
Chorus
(Harrisburg, PA)
1355 (75.3%)



The Harmonizers' Big Finish





ENCORE just keeps on singing!

As many of you already know, Bob Caldwell is the longtime lead for City Slickers. When they announced their semi-retirement after winning the MAD Senior Quartet Championship last spring, Bob wasn't willing to give up quarteting and competing. He began looking around and soon had gathered two experienced quarteters from the Virginians and a relatively new bass to form ENCORE!

Just formed in April, 2002, Bob Caldwell, lead; Larry Marko, Bass; Davis Theakston, Tenor; and Dick Lacy, Baritone, entered their first contest after 12 rehearsals and finished in 7th place in the Southern Division contest. This was a most impressive debut considering that Bob came from his sick bed to perform while running a temperature of nearly 100! This fine showing put them on the edge for competing at District being the first quartet to be added to district if anyone scratched from District. For the details of their performance at District see the related article in this issue, "Harmonizer quartet activity shines through at Wildwood!"

The Quartet's first "public" appearance was not the Division contest nor was it planned. The quartet had just driven to Fredericksburg where they met Bill Cody for a coaching session. Stopping at a local restaurant afterwards the waitress managed to "pry" out of them that they were a quartet and promptly requested that they sing for their supper. They, of course,



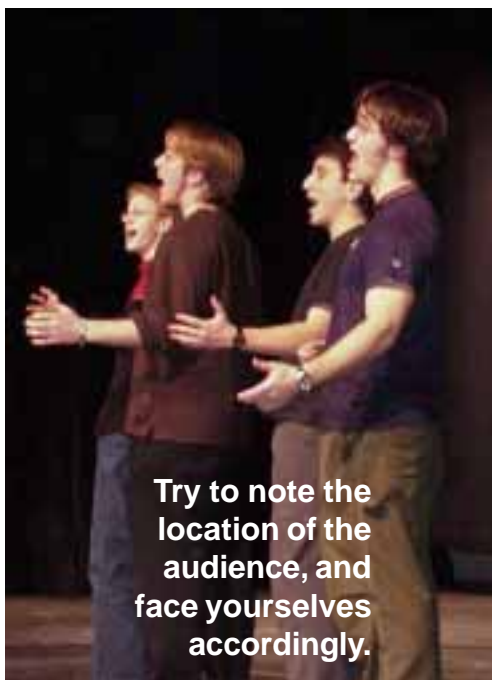
honored the request. Now that the quartet has increased its repertoire to 6-8 songs, they are looking forward to an increasing public performance schedule.

You can contact Encore! through Bob Caldwell via email at ENCORE@usa.com, home phone 804-241-6957, work phone 703-506-0088, or visit their new website at www.geocities.com/EncoreQ.



Show and Tell... for quartets

Make very certain these are men you can spend a lot of time with.



Try to note the location of the audience, and face yourselves accordingly.



Remember, to protect the public, police can and will cordon off dangerous quartets.

Your costumes should be neither too mundane...



Coaches generally advise you to confine your quartet to four people.

Let your quartet develop its own style.



...nor too unusual.

Get good coaches and smoke frequently.





Harmonizers help victims of harbor explosion!

by Steve White

Something rather unusual happened to us after a barbershop event that you may find it Echo-newsworthy. The Bay Rum Runners (retired) were the feature quartet at the Annual Dundalk Boat Ride in the Chesapeake Bay along with Premiere, Wheelhouse, Magnum, Capri, the Harrisburg and Dundalk choruses and more. A great time was had by all.

Afterwards however, ten of us including Fred Womer (of Premiere) and his girlfriend, Fred's parents, Barry Galloway (of The Bay Rum Runners) and Sally Toth, Rick Savage (of Premiere) and his wife Linda, and my wife Jerri and I went to the Rusty Scupper Restaurant on the water's edge in the Baltimore Inner Harbor to have dinner? While eating, and to the shock of everyone in the restaurant, we heard a enormous explosion that caused the room to jolt and windows of the restaurant to shatter and fall down onto the people seated at the perimeter tables. From my seat at the head of our table in the middle of the room, I saw the top-rear end of a boat fly up into the air about 25 feet. I thought it was going to come crashing through the window frames into the restaurant, but it fell back down into the water.

The room went into a panic as many patrons and employees ran for their lives, not knowing what had just happened and fearing the worst. I rushed over to the restaurant's broken windows and began pulling people away

from their tables and directing them out of the building. Some were hysterical, but no one appeared to be injured. From above, I saw pieces of the boat scattered everywhere and a part of the cabin was sinking fast. Two people from the boat were treading water and apparently looking frantically for something.

I yelled down to the people who had rushed over to help that other people may be trapped under the boat. Then our head waiter run down the dock, jumped into the water fully-clothed, dove under the remaining portion of the boat, and quickly retrieved a third person who was unconscious and injured.

During this time, Jerri, who is CPR-certified, and Linda, who is a nurse, had quickly made their way to the dock to see if they could give first aid. Jerri helped one of the victims lie down until the paramedics came. Shortly thereafter, the Coast Guard, paramedics, fire trucks, and police came to the scene as helicopters circled overhead. The police cordoned off the area and moved us away from the restaurant, not yet knowing the cause of the explosion and fearing danger of a leak from the gas pumps.

The accident did not make the evening news or Sunday morning papers in Washington, so we called the restaurant. The Manager said it was big news in Baltimore. Apparently, a boat had just finished refueling at the dock; however, they did not turn on their exhaust fans to vent the compartment before restarting the motors ... not a good thing to do and the boat exploded instantly. There were three people on board; two were seriously injured and one is in critical condition.





The First Chapter Quartet to Medal

by Jack Pitzer

Quarteting has been an important chapter activity throughout our history. A look at *Breathless Moments, The Alexandria Harmonizers 1948 – 1998* lists 129 registered and unregistered quartets. One of the earliest quartets, Virginia Hams, went through 13 listed personnel iterations, with a total of 21 men singing in the quartet at one time or another, including such men as Wilbur Schmidt (one of the charter members) and Dick Whitehouse, the only quartet member still active with the chorus.

Dick Whitehouse is better known as the bass of the first Harmonizer quartet to compete (and win a medal) in international competition – the Nova Chords. The other members of the quartet included John Adams (tenor), Scott Werner (lead), and John Hohl (baritone).

No-Va-Kords started in 1962 with Joe Craig on bass, baritone Brian Rodda, lead Linton Reed and tenor Wayne Campbell. Scott Werner became lead in 1964, John Adams tenor in 1965 and Dick Whitehouse bass in 1967. With Brian Rodda still singing baritone this foursome, now spelled Nova Chords, won the 1967 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Championship. Tom Lettington succeeded Brian Rodda in 1971 and John Hohl succeeded Tom in 1972. The year 1967 marked the quartet's first appearance in International competition.

Dick Whitehouse reminisced, "One of the high spots of our traveling career was to sing for the Wichita, Kansas, chapter and then the following day we visited the Institute of Logopedics and sang for the children. This was a high point. We were able to sing for probably hundreds of chapters from Waterford, Maine, to Naples, Florida, and enjoyed singing for the different chapters and, of course, all the Alexandria Harmonizers' annual shows.

"Each show we did had its own set of memories. I remember one chapter show where we went to the lobby to greet people after the performance was



over. When we got backstage and changed to leave for the afterglow, we discovered that everyone had already left the hall, including our hosts. We had no idea where the afterglow even was! We ended up going to the police station to find out if they could help us identify where the afterglow might be. It turned out they did help us and we finally made it.

"Another show stands out in my mind," reported Dick. "We were scheduled to sing on Staten Island for a show. Our flight arrived late because of terrible weather and we got to Newark Airport just 20 minutes before show time. Our host told us that we didn't have time to go to the hotel and check in but guaranteed our hotel rooms would be there. The second quartet scheduled was from the Far West District and they were circling over Newark Airport because of weather. We had to fill in their second act slot as well as our own in the first act. They made it by the end of the show and sang in street clothes. By the time we went to the afterglow and finished at 2 a.m., the hotel we were scheduled for was locked tight and they had sold our rooms. So our host started driving towards Newark Airport looking for a hotel that was open and had a vacancy. We finally found one called The Pink Flamingo that had a pink Cadillac limousine parked out front. There was only one room available that luckily had four beds but only one bath



(we drew straws in the morning). Our flight was scheduled for 7 a.m. The hotel took us to the airport the next morning in that pink limousine – something I will **never** forget.”

On a sad note, Dick remembered, “We qualified in 1968 to sing at International but we had to drop out of the competition on the Wednesday of convention week because of the death of Brian Rodda’s father. An alternate quartet sag in our place representing the Mid-Atlantic District. This was the one year in twelve we couldn’t compete. We sang in competition through 1978 and then finished our show commitments and disbanded in 1979.

“We really a great time together and made two recordings during the time, Barbershop Reflections and the Nova Sound – both well received by barbershoppers throughout the country.

“After the quartet retired,” according to Dick, “John Hohl and Scott migrated into Vaudeville and John Adams was joined by Alan Durick singing in Alexandria’s Ragtime Band. In 1993 John, Scott and I came together with Alan Durick singing baritone to form Reminisce and went on to win the gold medal in seniors competition in 1995.”

Upon reading this article, former NovaChord John Hohl replied:

“The Nova Chords were coached extensively by Don Clause, who was also coaching the Harmonizers at the time. Much of the credit for our success is shared with him and other local coaches including Wilbur Sparks and Billy Ball from the DC Chapter.

The quartet also produced to LP albums for our fans (anyone remember LP’s?). The were called “Barbershop Reflections” with the quartet reflected in a vintage mirror, and “Nova Sound” with fireworks exploring around the Washington monument...to play on our geography and the hot sound we produced. The best part of having albums was to go to the tables in the lobby after each show and meet and mingle with the crowds wanting to chat and get autographs. What a ride!”



The Nova Chords won their third place bronze medals in 1976 and were in fifth place in 1978, their last year of competition. Only Vaudeville with a silver medal and BSQ with third place bronze medals have done as well or better in International Competition.

The other major contribution of the Nova Chords was their influence on the chorus. They were getting good coaching and making a name for barbershopping in Alexandria. That attracted good coaches and got folks to realize we were doing good things here. Those coaches brought new awareness to the directors and leaders. With the Nova Chords traveling all over the Society, they spread the word. And brought back many new ideas, new techniques and even new music. Their influence has to be one of the milestones of what has made the Harmonizers a great chapter.



Einstein sings Lead in the Harmonizers!

by Roger Day

Well, not actually Einstein, but pretty close! I am talking about our very own Barberpole Cat guy, Jeremy Richardson. You know the Lead with the great smile and personality who looks like he just graduated from high school. Well, you will be amazed at his accomplishments in his short life so far.

He was born in West Virginia (but we won't hold that against him)! He received his Bachelors degree in Physics from the University of West Virginia in 1997. He then went on to achieve his Masters degree in Physics at the University of Colorado in 1999. He is still enrolled at the University of Colorado and plans to complete his Ph.D. in Physics this coming spring.

Even though his degrees are in Physics he is very interested in astronomy. He is currently working at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center on a NASA Graduate Student Research Fellowship. He is in a project where they are studying a planet orbiting another star, about 150 light years from Earth. They are trying to estimate the temperature of the planet so they can learn how they were formed and therefore have a better understanding of how the Earth was formed!

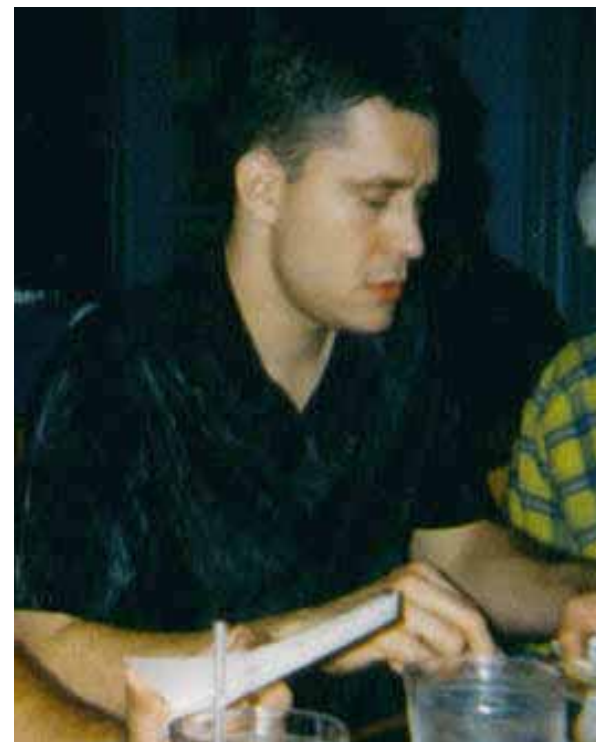
In May and June of this year he spent a few days in Germany to do studies and meet with other collaborators and give a talk on their research. Then, on to Sicily for a conference on the project.

In August and September he was in Hawaii for almost 3 weeks to help with some follow-up observations from two of the telescopes on Mauna Kea.

Part of the data and analysis from this trip will be the subject of his thesis. While in Boulder, Colorado, he was a member of the Boulder Timberliners Barbershop Chorus for almost 3 years. A small group of about 20 men, but valuable experience that go him hooked on Barbershop singing! Fortunately, the Harmonizers were lucky to reap the benefits of that small chorus experience and now have a great lead in our midst.

Just think, of all he has accomplished in just a short time. Jeremy is only 27 (why, I have food in my refrigerator older than that)!

Jeremy is currently our Barberpole Cat chairman. I asked him how he likes being in this position. He said, "I enjoy it because it's a way for guys to get involved in quarteting. I think it's important in such a big chapter to foster quartet activities"





Our Fall Show: the Power of Music!

by Kirk Riffer

As the Fall Show Producer I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to create a show that will hopefully entertain and wow this years audience. It makes my job that much easier when the featured quartet is Metropolis. As most of us have seen and heard on the international stage,

we know that they are a great barbershop quartet and hilarious to boot. I am counting down the days to get the chance to see them at our afterglow. I am also excited to bring to this show Mercury, who have just come off their sixth place finish at this years MAD District Convention. They did us proud.

I have tried to bring some new songs and songs that we normally do not sing on our show packages for this Fall Show. This will liven up our song list not only for the audience that have seen us many times but also for the chorus. Lets make sure to work extra hard on "Basin Street Blues" so that it will not be cut from the song list.

Our mailing this year was delayed a little but is hopefully going to catch a lot of people's eyes. Ken Rub has worked hard on getting a full color add out to our address list. Because we reduced the cost of the postage we are able to send our promotion out to over a thousand more potential customers. With this and the effort of the whole chorus selling tickets this years fall show will be a great success. For your practicing pleasure the following is the song list for our show. Enjoy!!



The madcap Metropolitans!

SET ONE

- Harmonizers' Welcome Song
- When I Lift Up My Head
- Old St. Louie
- Basin Street Blues
- New York, New York
- Hooked on Classics

SET TWO

- Mercury

SET THREE

- When You Wish Upon a Star
- Toyland
- Kiss de Girl
- You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile

INTERMISSION

SET FOUR

- Armed Forces Medley
- Battle Hymn of the Republic
- God Bless the U.S.A.

SET FIVE

- Metropolis

SET SIX

- How Deep Is the Ocean/Remember
- Alexander's Ragtime Band



How quarteting helps the chorus

by Interim Director Terry Reynolds

The origin of this hobby is four men standing around (frequently in a barbershop) singing, listening to each other, creating harmony, and ringing the snot out of chords. There were no written arrangements, it was all ear singing. What makes the art form unique is that it takes advantage of the physics of sound. A piano and virtually all other musical instruments are designed to play a tempered musical scale, the notes are played slightly out of tune so that the instrument can play equally well in any key. The human voice has the capability to adjust frequencies and sing “just intonation”, harmony notes with precise mathematical relationships between the frequencies, in any key. This is what produces the sensations of overtones and expanded sound. This is what makes barbershop unique.

As barbershop chorus singers, too frequently we focus only on our own part independent of the other three instead of how the four parts work together to produce the barbershop sound. Only when we use our ears to listen to the other three parts can we truly sing the precise intonation, with common word sounds and synchronization. Only then are we truly singing barbershop.

By far the best way for us to hone our individual barbershop singing and listening skills is by singing with a quartet. In a quartet it is easier to hear

the other three parts. Also, since you are solely responsible for one of the parts, it is easier to hear when you’re not doing something right, and it is easier to hear the difference when you make a correction. By quarteting we gain better ears for tuning, better understanding and appreciation for the art

form and we gain confidence in our abilities. All of these help us to be better chorus singers.

Many of us enjoy quarteting enough to form a formal quartet, learn songs together, perform together, and hone our barbershop craft together. For those of you who don’t have the time or inclination for that much commitment, there are still tremendous educational benefits to be gained by informal quartetting, not to mention the enjoyment and the comradery. Informal quarteting can be done with a different group of guys every time. It may include singing chorus songs, other arrangements, or Barber Pole Cats. It also includes woodshedding (making up the

arrangements) or, my personal favorite, tag singing. So grab three other guys before or after rehearsal and ring some chords. Invite three of your friends over to your house just to sing for the fun of it. The last Tuesday of November is our annual put together quartet contest. Let’s each try to participate in at least one quartet. Become a greater asset to the chorus and have fun doing it.

