



Director Search Underway

Scotty Werner's shoes will never be "filled", but it is time to go forth and identify the individual who, in their own way, will lead the Harmonizers forth into the next era in our history. The Chapter has chartered a Director Search Team (DST) to select the best candidate to recommend to the Board to be our next Musical Director.

The DST consists of

**Bob Sutton (chairman),
Alan Wile,
Gary Bibens,
Gary Plaag,
Bill Cody,
Joe Wagovich,
Kirk Riffer,
Jack Pitzer,
Chris Buechler,
Steve White,
Terry Reynolds, and
Michael Calhoun.**



*Interim Director Terry Reynolds
talking with the chorus*

They have, in fact, been at work since January, advertising the vacancy, accepting inquiries and questions, developing the application package, etc., and are currently reviewing the completed applications of those who would seek to become the next director.

Beginning in August, a select number of those candidates will be invited to "take over an evening" on a Tuesday night, to be able to dis-

play their skills and talents by working with the chorus in what we hope to be a variety of settings. These visits will be advertised in advance through the Harmonizer email group, and will likely continue at least through September, consistent with our preparation for the District contest in Wildwood the first week of October.

As this display of the candidates' skills is an invaluable resource to the DST in their evaluation, we would ask that every active Harmonizer do his best to be present on those evenings, and plan to be on the risers to give the candidate a full, large chorus to show their abilities with — we have plenty of risers. We urge those not on email to connect up with one or two Harmonizers who are, to make sure they are notified in advance (or better yet, simply be there every week — barbershop singing is still a blast).

Because many candidates are currently directing other chapters, their names are confidential to the DST; however, the process itself is not. Any Harmonizer curious about the process, or with input they would like to provide, is certainly urged to contact Bob at bsutton@alum.mit.edu or by phone (cell is 703 472-1992, home 703 263-3383).

There is no specific timeline for the announcement of the new director, especially given that we are fortunate to have Terry Reynolds available through the search process as interim director. However, as was especially clear in our first chorus meeting after Portland, we expect to work hard to elevate our singing skills, and the new director can help that better the sooner they're in place.

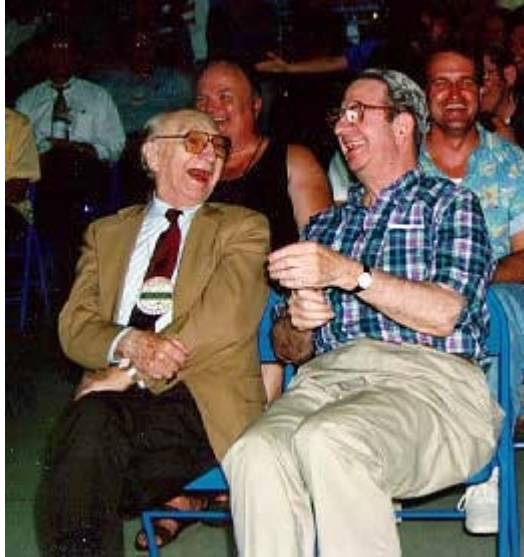


The End of an Era for *The Echo*

Wilbur Sparks, long-time editor of this bulletin, has chosen to begin his well-earned retirement from publishing *The Echo*.

In his many years at the helm, "Ye Ed", as he has been affectionately known, has nearly single-handedly produced every issue of *The Echo*, making it document read regularly not just by our chapter, but by officials all across the Society. No amount of thanks can suffice for his countless hours of hard work and devotion to this task. This and all subsequent *Echo* issues and dedicated to him and the spirit of conscientiousness he brought to the job.

Wilbur continues to provide sage counsel on *The Echo* and was consulted on many of the new concepts we hope to carry out. As new methods and approaches have enlivened the Harmonizer's recent performances, so too new editorial angles may build upon *The Echo's* glorious history toward a bright future.



Out-going editor Wilbur Sparks with chapter founder Dean Snyder.

For example, this issue of *The Echo* has been sent to you via e-mail. A radical change? You betcha.

We hope that this form is easier for most of you to receive, as it is much easier for us to produce and saves the Chapter money on printing and postage. This first new issue may be a bit slight, but future issues will contain many of the same features you have grown to love as well as new items yet to be imagined.



In-coming editor Scipio Garling with small tropical bird.

It is our fervent hope that *The Echo* can be a living document, a forum for all members to share their barbershop wisdom, their love for the hobby, and their inspiration with their fellow Harmonizers. *The Echo* is your bulletin; if there is something you want to see in it, then contact the new editor (scipio.garling@verizon.net) and let him know when you can get it to him.

Pitch in; it will take all of us working together to follow in Wilbur Spark's footsteps.



Contact Your Reporters to *The Echo*

Your editor can't do it alone! A cadre of intrepid reporters have already volunteered to help author *The Echo*. When you have news or items for *The Echo*, please direct them as follows:

Family News

Reporter: Roger Day
E-mail: onegr8rday@aol.com

The Harmonizers isn't just a chorus or a chapter; it's a family. When you have items such as births, deaths, marriages, honors, and opportunities, send to Roger Day for inclusion in Family News.

Quartet News, Profiles, and Notices

Reporter: Brad Jones
E-mail: bwj@nrc.gov

As Scotty recently pointed out, "we don't do enough quarteting in this chapter." *The Echo* wants to help you change that! In each issue, we'd like to feature news of our quartets, and how and what they are doing. We also want to do profiles of our quartets so everyone knows who they are and how they came to be. If you want to have your quartet profiled, or have quartet news, or want to put in a notice about auditions for a new quarter, contact Brad Jones for its inclusion in Quartet News.

Membership News and Profiles

Reporter: Chad Hoseth
E-mail: hosethc@itcdc.com

Just as we want to feature our quartets, we want to feature our members as well. We spend so much time together, yet can still remain a mystery to one another! Chad Hoseth will help us fix that with on-going updates and profiles of our membership.

Harmonizer History

Reporter: Jack Pitzer
E-mail: editorjack@aol.com

Our future depends on our past, and Jack Pitzer will help keep us aware of it with written versions of his interesting Moments in Harmonizer History.

Guest Editorials

Reporter: Scipio Garling
E-mail: scipio.garling@verizon.net

Me, write an editorial in *The Echo*? Yes, YOU! If you have something you want to share with the Chapter, don't eat up valuable rehearsal time or pester guys with e-mail messages: use *The Echo* as your forum! Contact Scipio Garling with your editorial idea or text.

And, remember, if you think there's a feature missing in *The Echo*, you can volunteer to write it!



Show and Tell

Photographs are something new to the Echo. Why not taken full advantage of the opportunities technology provides to get to know one another better?

Each month we would like to be able to feature YOUR photographs of yourself or your Harmonizer friends. What a wonderful forum this could be to actually SHOW how fun it is to be a Harmonizer; or, alternatively, to simply embarrass your friends.

Just send a scanned version of your photo (preferably as a JPG file) to the Echo editor at scipio.garling@verizon.net with any suggested commentary, caption, or contextualization. Old pictures from your ill-spent youth are particularly welcome.

So, get out the digital camera you got for your birthday and start clicking! You (and the rest of the Chapter) may be **amazed** at what the camera's eye catches....



Mike Ahmadi before joining the Harmonizers.



Mike Ahmadi after joining the Harmonizers; clearly, a changed man.

International Highlights

by Roger Day

Many Harmonizers arrived in Portland earlier in the week to enjoy the sites and attractions this area had to offer. But the chorus itself didn't get the ball rolling until the morning rehearsal on Thursday, July 4th, followed by the M-AD Pep Rally later that morning.

Several quartets sang at the Rally. Iguanas In Flight (soon to become the College Quartet silver medalist later in the week, missing first place by only a few points.) A big congratulations to them. Not bad for their first time out! There were other M-AD quartets that performed such as: Freelance, Premiere and Phat Cats. Also, we had a quartet from England and Sweden perform for the crowd.

Later that evening we all gathered for the annual Togetherness Dinner. This year there was no keynote speaker! However, a representative



Phat Cats at Pep Rally in Portland.



Scott Werner at Pep Rally in Portland.



Highlights from International, continued

from the Class of 2002. Ken White, gave a wonderful speech about his family history in barbershopping. His dad has been a barbershopper for many years. When he told his parents that he was moving to the Northern Virginia area, well, his dad insisted he join the Harmonizers. Ken remembered hearing us for the first time on the Kennedy Center Honors with Perry Como and how impressed he was with the performance.



After the evening's meal was over we all gathered on the balcony of the hotel, just outside of the banquet room to watch the fireworks display Portland puts on every year, reported to be the largest display west of the Mississippi! Well, let me tell you, talk about "Rockets Red Glare", there were rockets blue glare, purple, green, white, some with smiley faces, stars and hearts. It was a wonderful way to end the evening's festivities!

The next day, Friday, we had two rehearsals. The am rehearsal was open to the public and the afternoon's was closed. Two surprising events happened at the afternoon rehearsal. First: the annual tricking of Scotty during a run through of the package. Geri, set the stage on the ballad. Telling us to think of the girl and hear her ask the question "Do You Love Me?". Well, the mood was set, then as Scott raised his hands, what he heard was "No! The World Says No!" (which was the starting lyrics from last years contest ballad). Even Geri was surprised! Then, something no one expected happened! As we finished the Uptune "Alexander's Ragtime Band", the part where Scott appears at the top of the risers, then comes down to the edge of the stage as the fanally of

Highlights from International, continued

the song. The front row guys each had a can of Silly String and pelted Scott from head to toe. He was covered, I mean they were merciless. Scott finally gave in and took it all. Actually, from this reporters opinion, I think Scott liked it. After all it was the most substance he has felt coming from his head in years. He looked like he had multicolored Dreadlocks. It was hysterical!

After the silly string incident, our hosts made a wonderful comment to me. They said, here we are looking at a world class chorus, in serious rehearsal mode and !BAM! this happens. They felt, that things like this just make the Harmonizers more of a world class organization. They could feel the love coming from everyone and anyone would be proud to be a part of this group!



Now it was down to business! Saturday morning "Breakfast of Champions" annual gathering. Then it was on to rehearsal. Then dress in contest uniform and board the buses for the Rose Quarter. I have to say that the atmosphere was very positive. Everyone seemed pumped, and out for bear! The transition from bus to warm-up room went smoothly. Then on to the stage.

The crowd was chanting "Scotty, Scotty!". The Harmonizers were getting on the risers. Then the announcement and introduction. The curtain opened, and the magic began. Our performance of the contest package was awe inspiring! The crowd leaped to its feet at the end of "Alexander's Ragtime Band". There was Scotty all lit up in his Leader of the Band outfit at the edge of the stage allowing the crowd to love him and the Harmonizers. The crowd giving thunderous applause and a standing ovation! At that point came, what I feel, was the best mo-



Highlights from International, continued



The Harmonizers on the International stage at the close of the uptune, "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

ment of the entire convention. The Harmonizers gave Scotty a Standing Ovation, by applauding to him on stage! Wow, what an ending! I know my eyes were blurred!

The final results were:

- 5th place - Midwest Vocal Express (Greendale, WI)
- 4th place - Ambassadors of Harmony (St. Charles, MO)
- 3rd place - The Harmonizers (Alexandria, VA)
- 2nd place - Northern Lights (Toronto, ON)
- 1st place - Masters of Harmony (Santa Fe Springs, CA)

To sum up the week, I would have to say, it was magic. To be 3rd in the world is a proud moment for the Harmonizers. Now let's all go out and sing some more TAGS!!!!!!

Members Only

by Chad Hoseth

You know, I recently had the opportunity to see two great groups perform wonderful works of music. The first, a small chamber ensemble, sang *Carmina Burana* with spectacular intensity and great sound. The second, a men's ensemble, sang a series of original British chamber tunes that established the beginning of the "glee club" movement. The performances were wonderful, which made me ask myself... Should I be with one of these other great singing organizations?

But the answer was clear. Those groups had a great sound, but didn't seem to enjoy their craft. They stood there with folders in hand and stared blankly at their music and occasionally took a peek at the director, but they hardly knew the audience was there. After the concert, there was no socializing, no Afterglow and certainly no singing. They didn't "belong" to a chapter of friends, and they didn't have the support of a family of fellow chapters throughout the world.

Wouldn't it be great to share our fun with others? Please consider inviting your friends and colleagues to our upcoming free performances at Ft. Ward (Wed. July 25, 7:30) and Market Square (Fri. Aug. 9, 7:30). Like you, they may become hooked and quickly realize...it is great to be a Harmonizer!

The following men have joined the Alexandria Harmonizers over the last few months.

- Austin Cotton
- Dave Reyno
- Evan Shyer
- Ray Johnson
- Bob Rhome
- Michael Quigley
- Patrick Lockhart
- Michael Hunt
- Bill DePuy
- Stephen Breton

In future installments of the Echo, we will introduce each of these individuals in greater detail. They are a collection of great singers, great performers and great men.



The Times They Are A-Changin’

by Gary Bibens, Chapter President

There is an old Chinese curse out there that goes: may you live in interesting times. Well, whether it be curse or blessing, we do live in interesting times!

2002 will see the end of an almost 30 year legacy of musical excellence with the retirement of Scott Werner, and a new era of Harmonizer excellence. This era begins with the announcement of Terry Reynolds as Interim Musical Director in late July, and with the on-going search for a permanent Musical Director who will be able to take the Harmonizers to new and challenging places. And we do want to go new and challenging places; places like Montreal, Louisville, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, and Denver!

Another change is that after approximately 30 years, Wilbur Sparks is retiring as Editor of our Chapter publication, *The Echo*. *Breathless Moments*, the 50 year history of the Harmonizers, mentions that Wilbur was the Editor of *The Echo* in 1959, 60, 65, 69, 72, and from 1975 to 2002. If that isn’t a labor of love, I don’t know what is! It also states, “behind this was an even more remarkable transformation of the Editor. Wilbur had continued to publish “The Echo” using a ditto, a mimeograph and an offset printer”.....and “became part of the personal computer generation in 1994.” (I don’t know about you, but I don’t even know what a “ditto” is!)

Which brings me to our last change. *The Echo* has joined the Internet Generation!

Through the forward thinking of our new Editor, Scipio Garling, *The Echo* has been transformed once again into what you are reading today. A publication that can be current, exciting, informative and fun to read without spending time and money on printing, mailing, and production costs.

Please take the time to **thank** both Wilbur and Scipio for what they have done and are doing for our Chapter communications.

I don’t believe that these will be the only changes we will be seeing in 2002 and 2003. I know that just around the corner are several more that I know about and some that I can only dream of. Change, it is said, may sometimes painful, but not changing is fatal.

In these changing times, isn’t it “Great To Be A Harmonizer”?

Next Issue



The new convention center at Wildwood NJ, site of the upcoming District Contest.