

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of the Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



New Series, Volume 8
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 4
April 2007

Wheelhouse Is Coming!

By Bob Chieffo

YES! The 6th Place International Quartet Finalist, Wheelhouse, is coming to Poughkeepsie!



International Quartet Finalist
Wheelhouse

Wheelhouse is the featured guest quartet on the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers' annual Show on 28 April, 3 p.m., at F. D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, NY.

Wheelhouse has been astounding audiences since 2002 and has achieved three International Finalist ranks since then. These guys are dedicated to producing the finest vocal music possible in their own Wheelhouse style. The Newyorkers are indeed proud to present this young, dynamic quartet for the enjoyment of our loyal barbershop audience. Give 'em a look and listen at www.wheelhousequartet.com. Then come to the show and hear them LIVE! You will be amazed.

Our Show, "COAST TO COAST HARMONY," will also feature the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers chorus and our quartets: 2006 Yankee Division Champ and NED Medalist Swing Shift, 3-time Division Champ Footlighters, Hudson Valley Edition, Paradox, and Four to the Power of One. We have a special treat presenting the mixed quartet, Acclamation!

All tickets are General Admission: \$15, Senior/Stu-

dent \$12, children 12 years and under free. Contact Scott Salladin at 845-471-5845 or events@newyorkerschorus.org

Afterglow tickets are available at \$20/person from Eric Dickstein at erictd@hvc.rr.com. The 'Glow will be a fabulous feast at the new, spacious Tuscan Room of Coppola's in Hyde Park, NY.

For more info visit the Newyorkers' website www.newyorkerschorus.org

Men In Black Are Headed To Denver

By John Hadigan

On the weekend of 16–18 March in South Portland, Maine, the Granite and Pine Division hosted the NED prelims contest for quartets wishing to compete for the right to represent the district in the International Quartet Competition in Denver this July. As many of you know, a good old fashioned Nor'easter blew through the region that weekend, making traveling an interesting adventure at best! I'm happy to say that Poughkeepsie's own Swing Shift and all the competitors managed to make it to the convention safely. The only exception was that one of the singing judges missed the quartet semi finals Friday night.

Men In Black once again entertained the audience with a highly skilled and energized performance both nights. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to see their two songs on Friday night since my quartet, *Swing Shift*, was waiting in the final warm-up room to go on stage. Yes, that's right. We had to follow Men In Black! We actually took this situation as an opportunity to show the audience and the judges what we're capable of while feeding off of the energy in the room we knew that Men In Black would generate. We went out there and had a great time both Friday night and in the quartet finals on Saturday. Since Men In Black were singing last in the finals, we were able to see their performance, and it was inspiring as usual!

After all the numbers were tallied, Men In Black were announced as the NED representative this summer in Denver! They scored an average of 80.5%. Swing Shift finished in 6th place with an average score of 67.9%. We'll break that 70% plateau yet! We had some very good evaluations and are looking forward to (See "Men in Black" on Page 3)

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- Assisdtant Directors John Hadigan, Steve Hagerdon
- Chorus Manager Scott Salladin

Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

First Reformed Church

70 Hooker Avenue

Poughkeepsie, New York

ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME

Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org

Poughkeepsie Chapter

Mission Statement

The mission of the Poughkeepsie Chapter shall be:
 To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
 To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony activities for its members and potential members such as, but not limited to,
 Quartetting,
 Vocal crafts and techniques,
 Coaching,
 Chorus singing, and
 Competitive preparation and participation,
 and
 To provide public appreciation of barbershop harmony through public and charitable performances, and
 To promote good fellowship and camaraderie among its Membership, and
 To foster and enhance the ideals and principles of the Barbershop Harmony Society



- 7 Apr Coaching session with Steve Plumb
- 20-21 Apr Regional contests, Schenectady**
- 28 Apr Annual Show, 3:00 p.m., F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park**
- 9 Jun Sing at Relay for Life, Ulster Co. Fairgrounds—meet at 3 p.m. for warmup, sing at 4 p.m.
- 27 Jun Sing for Renegades—meet at 6 p.m.
- 25 July Sing at Bartlett Park—meet at 6:30 p.m., sing at 7. Rain date 26 Jul
- 8 Aug Sing for Renegades—meet at 6 p.m.
- 19-21 Oct NED Fall Convention and Contests, Lowell, MA**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
25 APRIL**

Happy Birthdays in April:

Patricia Griffin	4
Ron Pierson	17
Bev Waltke	21
Lyndell Schaffer	23
Renée Silverstein	27
Joan O'Neill	28

Happy Anniversaries in April:

Joe and Joan O'Neill	24
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Directions

by Renée Silverstein

JUST A FEW WORDS

While boiling water for tea and thinking about our upcoming contest and show (naturally), my mind began to wander (naturally). Watching water come to a boil doesn't require much concentration so it was easy and I like easy.

When water reaches 211 degrees it is HOT. Add one more degree and it boils. Boiling water produces steam and steam can power a locomotive. Applied to a lot of things one extra degree can separate the good from the great. Golf games are won by one stroke. Car races are won by one second, ball games by one point. These are small margins.

I say we turn up the heat. Let's get to the top of our game. You are responsible for your results in life. To get what we've never had means we have to do what we've never done.
(See "Directions" on Page 3)

Directions (From Page 2)

Let's believe in ourselves. Let's have a goal. Let's set a target. Let's each put in that one extra degree of effort on the contest stage and on the show stage. There goes the whistle; tea's ready and so am I.

Men in Black (From Page 1)

the Yankee Division quartet contest April 20th in Schenectady, NY.

In closing, I'd like to share a highlight of the weekend. After the evaluation sessions with the judges, there was an afterglow hosted by the quartet Inside Track from the Nashua, NH, chapter. It was a great chance to relax, to have some fun and ring a few chords. The best part was when Men In Black and Swing Shift joined forces to sing "Sweet Georgia Brown" as an octet! All I can say is WOW! It was I moment I'll never forget!

Address Change for David Lumb

From information supplied by Scott Salladin

David Lumb's new address is 4148 Centergate Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34233. Please drop him a note from time to time.

Dick Grapes Will Serve as Master of Ceremonies At Quartet Semi-Finals

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*, 2 February

Dick Grapes, baritone of the 1950 International Champion Quartet, THE BUFFALO BILLS, will be a VIP guest of the Barbershop Harmony Society at the 69th Annual International Contest and Convention in Denver, Colorado. Dick will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the Quartet Semi-Finals Contest to be held on Thursday, July 5, 2007 at the Pepsi Center. Barbershoppers from around the world will have the opportunity to spend an hour with Dick Grapes, the only living member of this legendary quartet, at a meet and greet session with Grapes to be held on Saturday, 7 July 2007 at the Adams Mark Hotel.

Barbershop Harmony at 30,000 Feet!

In-flight entertainment features story on the Society

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*, 2 February

Sky Radio, a company providing in-flight audio programming for seven major airlines in North America, will be airing an interview with the Barbershop Harmony Society's Director of Marketing Todd Wilson on Northwest Airlines flights in April of this year. Northwest Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline.

The four-minute interview covers a variety of topics, including the upcoming International convention in Den-

ver, the Society's upcoming relocation to Nashville, barbershop music available from <http://www.itunes.com/>, and a few samples of barbershop singing from International Championship quartets Platinum and ACOUSTIX.

The estimated reach of this audio programming is 700,000 passengers per month. NWA World Traveler, the official magazine of Northwest Airlines, has an average audience per issue of 1,914,000 and monthly circulation of almost 348,596. Contact information about the Barbershop Harmony Society is in the in-flight programming section of their April issue.

If you're not planning on flying Northwest Airlines in April you can still listen to the interview online by visiting www.barbershop.org/ID_097119 and clicking the link to LISTEN / DOWNLOAD NOW

Harmony University Announces the Honors Chorus

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*, 2 February

Be a part of HU history by singing under one of the greatest directors in the Society

Harmony University, with the help of Dr. Jim Henry, will raise the bar this summer with the Harmony University Honors Chorus. This group will be auditioned and spend 2 hours a day honing their craft. Not only will you be able to study with one of the masters of our style, but also, the sessions will include rehearsal techniques, choreography, and sectionals. The chorus will premiere as a featured ensemble on the Saturday Night Show.

Auditions will be based on one of the performance songs. Open to Society members attending Harmony University, candidates will submit their auditions on tape or CD to the Society headquarters by May 15.

So start warming up and get ready to be part of a new and exciting ensemble, the 2006 Harmony University Honors Chorus.

Visit http://www.barbershop.org/id_047119 to download the Honors Chorus Application Form.

Visit www.barbershop.org/harmonyu for more information about Harmony University 2007.

Attitude Shapes a Singer's Face

By Ken Krancher, Editor,
Peoria Chapter's *Noteworthy*,
from which this was taken

How many times have you witnessed a chorus singing without any essence of emotion? At these performances, were the faces etched in stone? There is a corollary here—hopefully everyone will want to consider how he looks, feels, and shows to the audience.

There are many helpful aids, written by qualified barbershoppers, that are available to help with mechanics the singer needs when on the (See "Attitude" on Page 4)

Attitude (From Page 3)

performance stage. Tuck the hips, flex the knees, weight on the balls of the feet, chest constantly lifted, and singing through the facial mask are a few of the important suggestions—and they all should be employed. But what about the face?

The message of each song phrase must be conveyed to the audience. Preparation by the singer must include developing and practicing the musicality of the song. Expressing this in front of the mirror reveals insight as to your perception of each message. Please note that it is not simply smiling through a happy text or frowning during a ballad that conveys the mood.

Your eyes betray you! Singing feelings through your eyes allows your facial muscles to complete the desired sounds and not contort to the mood you want to convey. Believe me, a more natural countenance is better for the audience to sense, rather than the stone face or exaggerated animated features. This technique also supports the

vocal action of approaching each sung note from above.

The Chorus Singer's Job

By Jon Wagner, Director,
Sun City Center Chapter's *Par For the Chorus*,
by way of Worcester Chapter's *Key Notes*,
Roy E. Hayward, Jr., Editor

The job of the chorus singer isn't to sing every word and note. The job of the chorus singer is to make sure that every word and note they sing is perfect. If that means you only sing *10 notes* in a whole song, then that's what you need to do.

For a given individual, this could mean stagger breathing every 5 seconds so as not to get out of breath, or dropping out for a whole phrase to catch your breath, or only singing notes within a third of middle C, or whatever.

Do what you can do right and *practice the rest at home*.

Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.newyorkerschorus.org>>