

# The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter, SPEBSQSA Inc.



New Series, Volume 3  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 12  
December 2002

## HARMONYFEST REPRISÉ

By Bill Standish  
HarmonyFest 2000 Chairman

A huge "THANK YOU" to all who worked to make HarmonyFest 2002 a success! While the weather outside was frightful and audience attendance lower than we experienced last year, the fact remains that the Newyorkers produced yet another successful bid to "Teach The Children To Sing." I would like to express my gratitude to every member of Song of the Valley, Evergreen, and Newyorkers for pitching in to give the kids a fantastic day of barbershop exposure—and to our friend up north, Ken Hughes, for his continued work and support of our chapter activity. In particular I would like to thank the following people:

- Scott Salladin: for assisting me with both festivals, for his work throughout the year, and for running another successful Harmony Marketplace.
- Bob and Lois Hitchcock: for hosting Overdrive Quartet and providing transportation for the quartet throughout the weekend.
- Renée Silverstein: For her great contribution throughout the entire day working with registering the students, overseeing festival t-shirt distribution, and directing TWO choruses. WHEW!
- Al Cavalari: for pulling the curtains backstage.
- Dick Schaffer: for helping with last minute pre-show items.
- George Trigg: for overseeing and setting up breakfast in the school cafeteria.
- John Chisholm: for acting as student greeter, registration, and other duties throughout the day.
- Dan Griffin: for helping to run the registration area, acting as a page for the students, and helping with the meals.
- Earl Snyder: for distributing all posters for advertisement throughout the towns of Montgomery, Walden, and Maybrook, and for also acting as a page for the students.
- Bob Chieffo, and wife Diane Chieffo (Evergreen): for a fantastic "Grand Slam" display of all chapter activity material and photos for our three chapters.
- Teresa Standish (Song of the Valley): for helping with the t-shirt labeling, registration, and setting up the afterglow.
- Gloria and Bruce Barron: for overseeing both advance ticket sales and mailing, as well as tickets sold at the

door—including organizing data for our mailing list.

- Ken Hughes: for a daylong session of videotaping and interviewing, for registering several students from Lake George, Corinth, and Watervliet High Schools—not to mention our "soon-to-be seen" masterful promotional video package.
- Mike Martin and Harriette Walters: for an outstanding job as clinicians and their constant work and dedication to students throughout our district and region.
- Xclamation! and Overdrive: for supplying their time and wonderful talents to supply vocal section work with the students—and for their continued desire to promote youth in barbershop.
- Todd Lamson: for being our wonderful emcee for the past two years, and for the fantastic work he provides throughout our district in support of its youth outreach program.
- Rich Taylor: for promoting the HarmonyFest 2002 event on the "APPLAUSE" Show for several weeks preceding the festival.
- and ALL the Newyorkers once again, for realizing that the key to the barbershop future is in the cultivation of music education in our students. Scott and I thank you for your continued support. Here's to NEXT YEAR!

## HARMONYFEST 2002

By Carolyn Schmidt  
Young Women in Harmony Coordinator,  
Greater NY Region 15, SAI  
Forwarded by Renée Silverstein


The following posting appeared on the Harmonet, the discussion group for folks interested in barbershop harmony. Thought you'd all like to see it. - Renée

This past Saturday, I attended HarmonyFest 2002, a youth festival presented by the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers with the assistance of Song of the Valley and Evergreen chapters (SAI). This was the best run festival which I have attended to date, with outstanding clinicians and assisting quartets as the educators. Harriette Walters, International Faculty member and Master Director of Greater Nassau chorus, and Michael Martin, an outstanding educator and member of SPEBSQSA, were the directors of the girls' and boys' choruses. Assisting were Xclamation!, Region 15 2001 champions, and Overdrive, Northeastern District champions. Also featured on the evening (Continued on Page 2)

**The Newyorker Times**  
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 Chorus Manager ..... John "Duke" Chisholm

**Meetings**  
**Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.**  
**First Reformed Church**  
**70 Hooker Avenue**  
**Poughkeepsie, New York**  
**ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME**  
 Website address ..... [www.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy](http://www.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy)



6 Dec First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant  
 11 Dec BOD meeting—6 p.m. at church  
 15 Dec Harmony for Hospice—4 p.m., Galleria Mall  
 18 Dec Last meeting of 2002; Holiday Get-Together  
 3 Jan First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant  
 8 Jan First meeting of 2003  
**11-12 Jan COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar)—Falmouth, MA**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**  
**31 DECEMBER**

**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 SPEBSQSA, Inc.

**HarmonyFest 2002** (From Page 1)  
 show were Men in Black, a Northeastern District Gold Medalist college quartet who performed with great musicality and professionalism.

The festival was an all-day event for both young men and women. Students received two songs (different repertoire for boys and girls) and learning tapes in advance and spent the day in rehearsal with their respective directors. Besides group rehearsals, students attended section rehearsals led by assisting quartet members while directors visited each section. Performances were well choreographed. The event culminated in a very professional show in a beautiful high school auditorium with good sound and lighting capabilities.

I was extremely pleased to bring six members of my Girls' Harmony, currently an 18-member youth ensemble, to this event. Festival organizers invited this ensemble to perform on the evening show and the girls really enjoyed the performance opportunity. Thanks, show committee!

My congratulations and thanks to all the HarmonyFest 2002 committee members, chorus members, and clinicians who made this wonderful event possible. We all look forward to next year's festival.

**ANOTHER RESPONSE TO HARMONYFEST 2002**

By Rich Taylor, Host  
 The "APPLAUSE" Show

We want to thank the Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter for their hospitality at their 2nd Annual Youth Festival last weekend in Poughkeepsie. What a thrill for me to see some 75 high school students learning the fundamentals of singing barbershop harmony under the watchful eye of clinicians Harriet Walters (SAI) and Mike Martin (SPEBS), and having the opportunity to tell them about The "APPLAUSE" Show! This kind of activity is really promoting and preserving a cappella (See "Another Response" on Page 3)

**Another Response** (From Page 2)

harmony among young people.

For T.J.Barranger, and Regional Broadcasting Services,

Rich Taylor, Host of The "APPLAUSE" Show  
 Show Website: [www.harmonize.com/applauseshow](http://www.harmonize.com/applauseshow)  
 Thursday Night 6:30pm-11:00pm  
 WVRM AM 1620, Village Radio, Upper Montclair,  
 NJ  
 On the Internet at [WWW.VILLAGERADIO.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGERADIO.COM)

**Happy Birthdays in December (date order):**

Jane Reynolds	3
Gerry Weiss	7
Bix Doughty	10
Faith Krzywicki	12
Steve Hagerdon	13
Steve Miller	25

## NEWYORKER LEAD COSTARS IN DCC PLAY

Dan Landa, a relative newcomer to the Poughkeepsie chapter and to barbershopping in general, recently co-starred in the Dutchess Community College production of "A Night in the Ukraine," adapted by DCC Assistant Professor of Speech and Theater Joe Cosentino from a Marx Brothers movie, "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine," with music and lyrics by Dick Vosburgh. Dan played the role, created by Chico Marx, of Carlo, one of three brothers who create havoc in the mansion of a widow and her beautiful daughter. The other two brothers are the Harpo character Gino, played by Mike Manzo, and the Groucho character Samovar, played by Joe Trzaska. The show played on 21-23 November evenings and 24 November afternoon in the Dutchess Hall Theater.

Dan is a sophomore at DCC, majoring in performing arts. He hopes to have a career on Broadway.

## HARMONY HALL LISTED FOR SALE

A message from Society President Roger Lewis

The Society's vision statement reads, "The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of Barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities." The Society Board's dedication to our vision is one of the key reasons we commissioned a study of Harmony Hall, east and west, by a Task Force. We are not a "Historic Building" restoration society, nor a preserver of old buildings. Our focus is preserving a style of music for ourselves and future generations, and sharing our art form with our communities.

But that was not our only concern. Our wonderful old mansion is badly in need of repair. Just to repair the moisture-related and mechanical problems would cost us more than a million dollars. Another six hundred thousand is needed to restore it to its former splendor. That doesn't include some needed future expenditures, such as a total

rewiring of the mansion to accommodate new technology.

Even if we moved toward restoration, the house is very inefficient as an office. Only 40% of the building's square footage can be used for office space. The kitchens, pantry, hallways, beautiful stairways, bathrooms with showers, and even the living room take lots of space that cannot be used. Simply put, it's a house, not an office.

As we've grown, we've had to house our staff in separate locations—and therefore we purchased our Sheridan Road property. Having staff in two locations creates management and communication problems that we would like to eliminate. Often, Darryl must feel like he manages two separate "businesses," and each has its unique culture.

Managing the day-to-day problems of the building is a diversion from our core business. Yes, one or two people take care of this. But a leak in the roof over the Old Songs Library would immediately call every staff member into service. If a water pipe should burst, as one did across the street in July, we would lose priceless, irreplaceable property.

The blue ribbon Task Force that we commissioned early this year (Ed Waesche, Chair; Alan Lamson; Dan Waselchuk; Jim Warner; and John Schneider, staff liaison) presented the board with a number of options. Included were opportunities to trade both Harmony Hall and Sheridan Road properties for vacant land in the Racine, Wisconsin, area on which we could build. The board chose to list Harmony Hall (east) for sale as a first step.

Following this first giant step, a number of options will open. We can make arrangements to house the entire staff at Sheridan Road. We currently rent out a large portion of the building to other tenants. Building added office space there is also a consideration. At that point, we can decide to continue the process, use Sheridan Road as our permanent home, or continue to search for suitable office space.

Concurrent with the listing of Harmony Hall, we will have an architectural study done on Sheridan Road to determine the cost and space needs if we move staff there. At the same time, the Task Force will investigate other opportunities in the Wisconsin/Texas corridor (Ed Waesche's term) that might include Dallas, Houston, St. Louis, Atlanta, Kansas City, etc.

There may be an "angel" Barbershopper or a benefactor somewhere who might offer property at a low cost to purchase or lease on a long term basis, much the way we acquired Harmony Hall in 1957. It is simply good business on the part of the board to investigate any such opportunities.

As I'm writing this from the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Nashville, I do not have many of my hard copy notes with me, so I hope I've covered the situation as the Board sees it. I'd certainly entertain questions or input.

My thanks to the Harmony Hall Study Task Force, who presented us with a study far beyond expectations. I'm continually amazed at the depth and breadth of talent we have in the Society. A huge thanks, too, to our Society Board, who have the intestinal fortitude to make tough decisions.

Thanks to you, our (See "Harmony Hall" on Page 4)

**Harmony Hall** (From Page 3)

members and supporters. We're beginning a new journey, aren't we?

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## OLDYORKER, NEWYORKER TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER

By Bill McFadden, Oldyorker  
Passed on by Bob Chieffo

In case he does not brag about it himself, I thought I would point out that Steve Plumb will be competing against Mike Myers in Albuquerque. He [Mike] had to go to Florida to compete as they had a scheduling conflict and could not compete in Dixie's contest. They scored well enough to earn a wild card slot. The tenor is a previous Seniors Gold Medalist, John Adams, formerly of Alexandria.

Ed. Note: Steve Plumb, a current member of the Newyorkers, is well known to the chapter in consequence of his frequent and much appreciated coaching sessions with the chorus. His quartet's name is Close Encounters of the Seventh Kind. Mike Myers, on the other hand, will not be a familiar name to more recent recruits. His quartet is called Joint Venture. In the late '70s and early '80s, he sang lead with a chapter quartet known as Brotherhood. A comedy quartet, it performed frequently in the area. Its most notable performance was before President Ronald Reagan on the White House lawn, resulting from Bob Betscha's having been seated on a plane trip next to some members of a public relations firm handling a July 4th picnic for the president. In the course of the conversation, they noted that they were looking for musical entertainment for the event, preferably something light and with a flavor of Americana. Bob suggested a barbershop quartet, and accepted the assignment to recommend one. On the advice of the then chapter president, Brotherhood was the choice. The next issue of *The Newyorker Times* will carry a more extended account of this remarkable quartet's career.

To add to the coincidence, Close Encounters of the Seventh Kind is slated to sing immediately following Joint Venture.

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## REACTION FROM DAN SCHWARTZ

By Dan Schwartz  
Forwarded by Bob Chieffo

Many thanks for mentioning me in the Newyorker Times. I do enjoy being remembered as an "Oldyorker," for that's the way I think of myself!

The Newyorkers gave me a bunch of firsts in barbershopping—my induction into the Society, my first chorus, my first Division contest, my first District contest, and others.

It's also where, to my great trepidation, I first tried singing baritone. (I do a lot better with it now than I did then, although I still prefer bass. Then again, I'm not always given a choice. In the fall of 2000, when I joined the Concord, MA, chapter as a bass, director Karen Rourke did the same thing Renée had done five and a half years ear-

lier: she switched me from bass to baritone, a month before contest! I think I handled it better the second time.)

And I'll never forget The Newyorkers as the great bunch of people that you were, and are, welcoming a new guy into the ranks. It meant a lot to me at the time, and still does.

Please pass on my best wishes for a very Happy Thanksgiving to all Newyorkers, past and present. I'm proud to have sung on the risers with you.

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## SINGING IS LIFE ... the rest is just details

From *SPEBSQSA Update*, November 2002

Our song can be heard. In this turbulent world, isn't it a good feeling to know that we can lift our voices in song to express our feelings of love, patriotism, and peace? As we enter the final months of the year, we all have an opportunity to help our song be heard. Each of us has a chance to support the Society's charitable mission and preserve our musical legacy. Together, we can make our Barbershop Harmony Society come alive for all generations to enjoy.

The Harmony Foundation General Fund Campaign goal is \$70,000.00. As of this writing, member donations total \$31,935.12. Society members who have not yet donated will soon receive a letter from fellow Barbershopper—and Campaign Honorary Chairman—Dick Van Dyke asking for a contribution. While gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, perhaps some of us can find it in our hearts to donate \$52—just \$1 per week—to help teach the children to sing.

All member contributions will count toward the Harmony Foundation chapter awards. Chapters with total contributions equaling or exceeding \$25 per member will earn a Bronze Award, chapters exceeding \$50 per man will earn a Silver Award, and chapters exceeding \$100 per man will earn the coveted Gold Award. Will you help our song be heard?

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## MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Effective 1 January 2003, Greg Howard's e-mail address will change to

[gmhoward@directway.com](mailto:gmhoward@directway.com).

Please update your e-mail address books. Mail can now be received at the above address.

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## NEW COLLEGIATE QUARTET RULES

By Jim DeBusman  
College Barbershop Quartet Contest Coordinator

The new rule requiring that there be at least two collegiate members in every MBNA America CBQC quartet was added at the recent Society Board meeting held at the Leadership Forum. The ruling has led to several calls concerning the eligibility of high school quartets.

As a result of a discussion with Eric Ruthenberg, chairman of the YMIH Committee, and (See "Rules" on Page 5)

**Rules** (From Page 4)

Hank Hammer, chairman of the Society Ops Committee, the decision was made to grandfather in any high school quartet wishing to compete in the Spring 2003 contest cycle. Please give this information the widest possible dissemination.

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**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE**

By Reed A. Sampson

Managing Director of Public Relations, SPEBSQSA

There are two ways to get into Members Only so that you can renew your membership online. The first is to click on the Members Only link on the SPEBSQSA web page ([www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)) and enter your member number and your password. Forgot your password? No problem. Just click on "Forgot my password" and a password will be e-mailed to you. You can also get into Members Only by using the priority code on the mailing label of your Harmonizer. Once in Members Only, click on "Renew your membership online." Follow the steps using a Visa or MasterCard to renew. It's convenient, quick and easy, and your renewal is processed right away. You can also check if you are due for renewal or already paid.

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**ABBOTT AND COSTELLO ON CHINA  
IN THE OVAL OFFICE**

By Playwright Jim Sherman

(Written the day after Hu Jintao was named  
chief of the Communist Party in China)

(Forwarded to the editor by his  
daughter-in-law)

HU'S ON FIRST

(We take you now to the Oval Office. "Condi" is Condoleeza Rice.)

George: Condi! Nice to see you. What's happening?

Condi: Sir, I have the report here about the new leader of China.

George: Great. Lay it on me.

Condi: Hu is the new leader of China.

George: That's what I want to know.

Condi: That's what I'm telling you.

George: That's what I'm asking you. Who is the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes.

George: I mean the fellow's name.

Condi: Hu.

George: The guy in China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The new leader of China.

Condi: Hu.

George: The Chinaman!

Condi: Hu is leading China.

George: Now whaddya asking me for?

Condi: I'm telling you Hu is leading China.

George: Well, I'm asking you. Who is leading China?

Condi: That's the man's name.

George: That's whose name?

Condi: Yes.

George: Will you or will you not tell me the name of the new leader of China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir? Yassir Arafat is in China? I thought he was in the Middle East.

Condi: That's correct.

George: Then who is in China?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir is in China?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Then who is?

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Yassir?

Condi: No, sir.

George: Look, Condi. I need to know the name of the new leader of China. Get me the Secretary General of the U.N. on the phone.

Condi: Kofi?

George: No, thanks.

Condi: You want Kofi?

George: No.

Condi: You don't want Kofi.

George: No. But now that you mention it, I could use a glass of milk. And then get me the U.N.

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: Not Yassir! The guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi?

George: Milk! Will you please make the call?

Condi: And call who?

George: Who is the guy at the U.N.?

Condi: Hu is the guy in China.

George: Will you stay out of China?!

Condi: Yes, sir.

George: And stay out of the Middle East! Just get me the guy at the U.N.

Condi: Kofi.

George: All right! With cream and two sugars. Now get on the phone.

(Condi picks up the phone.)

Condi: Rice, here.

George: Rice? Good idea. And a couple of egg rolls, too. Maybe we should send some to the guy in China. And the Middle East. Can you get Chinese food in the Middle East?

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**TAKE CARE OF YOUR VOICE! (PART 1)**

By David Epstein, MD, Wilmington, Del., Chapter  
(From the SPEBSQSA web site,  
by way of Greater Montréal Chapter's *Mini-Pitch*,  
Murray Phillips, Editor)

I recently attended a symposium on Care of the Professional Voice, given by Robert T. Sataloff, MD, DMA, an Ear-Nose-and-Throat surgeon from Philadelphia who is also a singer and an expert on the medical care of singers and other people who use their voices professionally. Much of the discussion was pretty technical. But he also gave us several "pearls" about how to (See "Voice Care" on Page 6)

**Voice Care** (From Page 5)

prevent physical damage to the vocal apparatus, and how to prolong a singer's career, whether professional or amateur. I want to pass on to you some tips to keep your singing voice healthy.

This issue, I will give you Dr. Sataloff's suggestions for avoiding vocal injury during performances and rehearsals.

- Avoid over-singing. If you sing too loudly, you can cause irritation or bleeding on the vocal cords, which will make you hoarse and give you pain. Over a long period of time, over-singing can give you vocal nodules. Over-singing can occur while trying to out-sing other chorus members, or while your quartet is practising over other noise in the room, or trying to sing over other pick-up quartets at an afterglow.
- Record yourself *before* and *after* your performance or rehearsal. Then compare the tapes. If you sound more hoarse after singing, there is something about your technique that should be fixed.
- Use good posture. Good posture assists you with proper support. Without proper support, you have to abuse the muscles in and around your larynx to make sound, which leads to the same problems as over-singing. Dr. Sataloff pointed out that most people don't think of a sprained ankle as a voice complaint, but the ankle pain will lead to poor vocal support! Be careful of over-exuberance with stage presence moves; if you are off balance, your support is impaired. Stand with your weight

slightly forward on the balls of your feet, with your knees slightly flexed.

- Try to avoid other people's cigarette smoke before singing, as it will irritate your vocal cords and make you hoarse.
- Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or during singing. Alcohol dilates the blood vessels, and makes you susceptible to injury.
- Don't eat or drink unfamiliar foods right before singing. Many people have mild unrecognized food allergies. A little swelling in the vocal cords can lead to hoarseness, and make injury more likely.
- Be careful if you are flying to a contest or performance; aeroplanes are terrible for singers. Cabin air is very dry and can irritate the mucous membranes. So keep drinking juice or clear soda. The cabins are very noisy, so don't try to sing or have a long conversation on the plane. A nice snooze is a good idea.

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**E-MAIL REMINDER**

The Newyorker Times is available by e-mail in .PDF format, which is readable on any computer with Adobe's Acrobat Reader, available as a free download from Adobe's web site. The e-mail version gives the advantage that any colored matter appears in color, rather than in black and white as in the printed version. If you wish to subscribe this way, notify Chief at [ChiefBari@purrera.com](mailto:ChiefBari@purrera.com)

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Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.angelfire.com/fl/gbnagy>>

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