

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 6
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 1
January 2005

Convention Confusion

By George Trigg, based on communication from
John T. Schneider, Jr.,
Acting Conventions Director,
and Liz Meurer, Meetings Manager,
and on *LiveWire*, 14 January 2005

Early in January, there was a communication reporting a change in the scheduling of the International Convention and Contest from what it has been in the past. The chief effect of the change was to reduce the Quartet Contest to two rounds: a semifinal, in the usual two segments, on Wednesday; a preliminary Chorus Contest on Thursday, with the AIC show that evening; and the final round, involving the top 20 finishers from the semifinal round, on Friday evening. Other features of the convention were planned around that schedule; one was to be a Saturday night show featuring, among other acts, the Chorus Contest winners, the Quartet Contest winners, the retiring champion chorus and quartet, and the reigning Seniors Quartet champion.

This involved suspending some of the contest rules. As a result of extensive reaction from the membership, the Board reconsidered, decided that such changes should not be made except through a transparent and broadly consultative process, and revoked the rules suspension. In consequence, the Quartet Contest will be in three rounds as in the past, with the final round on Saturday evening.

Many of the other planned innovations will be retained. What follows is a description of at least some of them, in which "we" refers to the Society.

Monday, July 4th.—We will host a party in downtown Salt Lake City called The Taste of Barbershop. We will invite the people of Salt Lake City to "come on down" and enjoy some true Americana on this 4th of July. We will seek to involve local youth entertainers in this activity and hope to end the day with some fireworks.

Wednesday, July 6th.—We will have an Olympic-style opening ceremony where competitors march into the Conference Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (a facility that has to be experienced to be believed) carrying the flags of our Affiliate organizations, their District, their Chapter, or their quartet. This will be followed by the first round of quartet competition.

Thursday, July 7th.—We will have the Preliminary Chorus contest. This will take place in the Conference Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and will feature the twelve Wild-Card choruses. Admission to this event is free. It is

part of your registration package.

Also, Thursday night will be the always-spectacular AIC Show, featuring the Dapper Dans of Disney World. Don't miss it.

Friday, July 8th.—We begin this day with walk-ons for the sixteen District Champion and Affiliate chorus competitors. That will be followed by the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in the Conference Center. We'll also have the World Harmony Jamboree that afternoon in Abravanel Hall, a performing-arts-type theater in downtown Salt Lake City that is the home of the local symphony. And Friday night will be the Semifinal round of the Quartet Contest.

Saturday, July 9th.—This day will feature the Chorus Finals. Sixteen District Champions, one or more Affiliate choruses, and the top six scoring choruses from the Preliminary Round will compete in the greatest musical show on earth. And Saturday night, as always, will be the final round of the Quartet Contest.


And Sunday, July 10th, will bring a convention experience that likely never will be forgotten. Sacred Gold, an event featuring the 360-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir, a 600-voice ensemble of chorus and quartet gold medal winners, and Society champion quartets Power Play, Four Voices, and Acoustix will all be part of this remarkable concert. The finale of this concert will include a chorus of over 900 voices directed by Dr. Craig Jessop, Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Other guest directors include Jim Clancy and Dr. Greg Lyne. Your admission ticket to this concert is your convention registration name badge.

In addition, there will be activities every single day during the week that will give attendees the opportunity to participate in the convention, learn more about their craft, and enjoy relaxed singing—a much larger version of the X-TREME Thursday activities that were held in Louisville last year. And these won't just be for the men: We'll develop some activities/seminars for (See "Convention" on Page 2)

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Meetings
 Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
 First Reformed Church
 70 Hooker Avenue
 Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME
 Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org



9 Feb BOD meeting: Ash Wednesday
 13, 14 Feb Singing Valentines
 16 Feb BOD meeting—6:00 p.m. at the church
 26 Feb Installation Dinner—5:30 p.m., Hickory BBQ and Steakhouse, Kingston
 9 Mar Coaching by Roger Payne at the regular chapter meeting and rehearsal
 18–19 Mar International preliminaries for quartets, Providence, RI
 8–9 Apr Western Regional Convention and Contest, Brattleboro, VT
 14 May Newyorkers' Annual Show—8 p.m., FDR High School, Hyde Park

Poughkeepsie Chapter Mission Statement
 To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
 To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony activi-

ties for its members and potential members such as, but not limited to:
 Quartetting
 Vocal crafts and techniques
 Coaching
 Chorus singing
 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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION
23 FEBRUARY

Happy Birthdays in February:

Doug Murray	11
Greg Howard	12
Ralph Harlow	22
Steve Plumb	26
Eric Dickstein	28

Happy Anniversaries in February:

No known anniversaries this month

Condolences:

To Lew and Mary DiStasi, on the death of their son Peter on 31 December 2004

Convention (From Page 1)

the families as well.

The March/April issue of *The Harmonizer* will have the final plan for the convention. In the meantime, why not take advantage of the current reduction in airfares to make your plans to join us in Salt Lake City!

Errata

The following birthday announcements were inadvertently omitted from the January issue:

Bix Doughty	10
Faith Krzywicki	12
Steve Hagerdon	13
Lynn Takahashi	31

We apologize to these people, and hope their birthdays were happy ones.

The name of the author of the article "Note From an Oldyorker" in the January issue was misspelled. It should read Hirsh, not Hersh. We apologize to Bob.

Widow of Oldyorker Passes

By George Trigg, from information supplied by Scott Salladin

Mrs. Marie Wheatley died on 17 January. She was the widow of Kenneth Wheatley, who was a member of Poughkeepsie Chapter for many years and who died in 2001. Services

were held on 19 January.

A Cappella News from FDR High School

By Laurie Woolever

The art of a *cappella* is alive and well at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park! On 13 January the Binghamton Crosbys, the all-male a cappella group from Binghamton University, put on an evening show, featuring Matt Woolever (2002 FDR graduate) as soloist on "Major Tom" and "You Better You Bet." The Crosbys are preparing for their participation in the International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), at which, in 2003, they won the title of National Champions! Their concert at FDR helped raise money for The First Ladies, the women's a cappella group at FDR, who are preparing for *their* participation in the National Championship of High School A Cappella (NCHSA). In November, The First Ladies recorded three songs and sent them to the NCHSA judges, who chose them as one of the seven best in New York State. The 17-voice group will be traveling to NYC on February 19 in their bid for the state title. The First Ladies owe their very existence to HarmonyFest 2001, where the idea for an a cappella group at FDR was born. All the President's Men, an all-male a cappella group, began rehearsing this fall at FDR, also under the direction of Laurie Woolever. Both groups will be appearing at *Totally Retro*, an FDR choral presentation at the Center for the Performing Arts in Rhinebeck ("The Barn") on Saturday, 19 February, at 11:00 a.m., and at the FDR Music Department "Prisms" Concert on Wednesday, 23 February, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at F. D. Roosevelt High School. For more information, contact Laurie Woolever by phone at 473-9231 or by e-mail at laurie.woolever@hydeparkschools.org.

Note provided by Bill Standish: Laurie Woolever is the high school music educator at F.D. Roosevelt H.S. in Hyde Park. She has been involved in and has highly supported HarmonyFest for *all three* productions, and has offered to host HarmonyFest 2005 this year if approved by our Board. Laurie has sent along this article for our newsletter to show how the New Yorkers and the HarmonyFest program spawned The First Ladies a cappella group and now All the President's Men, and to show the progress and opportunities for The First Ladies because of their relationship to our festival program.

Ed. Note: The First Ladies made a memorable contribution to the New Yorkers' annual show last May. We urge your support of them by attendance at one or both of their concerts.

Halifax 2005

By Steve Isherwood,
NED VP of Events
Forwarded by Scott Salladin

We hope the enclosed information will help you in making your travel plans to beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the Fall District Contest/Convention weekend on 30 September–2 October 2005. The chapters in Nova Scotia are working very hard to make this a memorable weekend. The information provided will point you in the right direction to get more detailed fares and schedules. The Halifax Convention Team has

a website with lots of info to make your trip enjoyable as possible. Just go to www.HHE2005.ca.

How to get to Halifax from Poughkeepsie, NY.

By car: 892 miles, 14.5 hours driving. Drive up with another couple or some friends and split the costs. Remember that this is Fall Foliage Season and the drive should be spectacular. Go to www.mapquest.com for driving directions. If you are a member of AAA they will prepare a detailed map for you free of charge.

By Car/Ferry on the Scotia Prince: 305 miles to Portland, ME. The ferry departs at 7 p.m. and arrives in Yarmouth, NS, at 8 a.m. Then you have to drive 180 miles to Halifax from Yarmouth. The return ferry leaves at 9 a.m. Fare is \$200 for a car on the ferry and about \$102 per person including a cabin on the overnight sailing to Yarmouth and breakfast. Lunch on the return but no cabin. You can call Scotia Prince Cruise Lines at 800-341-7540 or visit www.scotiaprince.com for more details. You will need to mention the Barbershop Harmony Society in order to get the group rates. This is an overnight ferry to Yarmouth and a day sailing back. Keep in mind that the 9 a.m. return time would require you to leave Halifax around 4 a.m. in order to be at the ferry terminal in time for the 9 a.m. departure. Or you could drive to Yarmouth and spend the night to be there for the morning departure.

By Car/Ferry on the CAT: Ferry departs at 9 a.m. from Bar Harbor, ME, and takes only 2 hours and 45 minutes to Yarmouth, NS. Then the 180 mile drive to Halifax. The return ferry leaves at 4:30 p.m. from Yarmouth to Bar Harbor. A car would be \$170 round trip. Adults are \$45 each way. Seniors are \$40 each way. You can call 888-249-7245 or visit www.cattferry.com The ferry holds 900 people and 240 cars. So make your reservations early. Mention the Barbershop Harmony Society.

By Motorcoach: Buses from New England will range from \$4500-\$5000 for a 3 day trip. That works out to be about \$100 per person if you fill it. Keep in mind that this is Fall Foliage Season. So if your

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chapter plans on traveling by bus together, you will need to make a bus reservation ASAP! Also keep in mind that a bus driver can not make the entire drive (can't drive more than 9 hours). They will have to switch out drivers in the middle of the trip somewhere. You can book a local bus yourself or you can call CustomCoach of Portland at 800-585-3589 and ask for Gregg. He will be happy to assist your chapter in finding a bus and making the ferry reservations.

By Motorcoach/Ferry: The cost of the bus is the same as above, plus you will have the expense of the bus on the ferry (\$200 RT), plus the cost for each passenger (\$102 RT). So that will bring the cost to about \$210 per person round trip.

By Air: Hartford to Halifax, \$380; Providence to Halifax \$301; Boston to Halifax, \$303; Portland to Halifax, \$464.

Air Canada and Continental fly these routes. Most flights require a stop in Montreal, Toronto, or Newark. Air Canada operates non-stop out of Boston. The airfares listed above are the current lowest fares available online.

If you need any further information or help with your travel plans, please contact me and I will do my best to assist you.

The Top Ten List

By Al Ries
From Lake County (IN) Chapter's *Overtones*,
Al Ries, Editor

You've probably seen the Top Ten List on David Letterman's show. This list never made it to his show, but it's one that all of our chapter members should adopt for the new year. These are not in any particular order—they are all important.

- Be on time for the meeting. That usually means [7:30] p.m.
- Bring your music to the meeting. (It doesn't help if it is sitting at home.)
- Use your tape recorder during rehearsal.
- Spend time at home *each week* learning and reviewing the music. (Don't waste rehearsal time to learn the music.)
- Invite guests to a chapter meeting. (Pick them up if possible. Follow up and encourage them to return.)
- When we have guests, whether they are yours or another fellow's, make them feel welcome.
- Do not talk when the director is talking to the chapter or another section, and watch her when we are singing.
- Volunteer to help when asked. (Don't assume "the other guys" will do it.)
- Support your chapter—sell ads and tickets and attend performances.
- Write a bulletin article on anything related to barber-shopping, music, the chapter, or *anything*. Your editor would appreciate some input.

Write an Article for the Chapter Bulletin

By Bob Bartley, Editor,
Danbury's *Hatter Chatter*,
from which this was taken

Writing an article for your bulletin need not be a distasteful challenge. Just put into words some of your thoughts about barbershopping, the chapter, performances you took part in, or even what you saw when you went to a contest.

We are interested in your observations and in your views. Do you have an idea for generating more publicity for the chapter? How about new stratagems to finding new members, or exposing our hobby to more people?

Create an article and submit it to your bulletin editor for publication in the chapter newsletter so you can get the opinions of fellow members. You can kill a lot of birds in this manner: You make the Editor happy, you stimulate the interest of fellow members, and you give them something to read in the pages of the bulletin.

You do not have to be a journalist to let us know what you have under your hat, and besides, I can always use more copy.

Eight Reasons You'll Go Flat

By Garry Garrison, Editor,
Minnetonka (MN) Chapter's *Minnetonka Clipper*
By way of Peoria (IL) Chapter's *Noteworthy*
and Worcester Chapter's *Key Notes*

1. Shallow Breaths: Collar breathers and shoulder breathers

will let the pitch sag in the middle or end of phrases. Solution: Breathe from the gut.

2. Low Breath Supply: Failure to breathe properly and attain sufficient air supply is noticeable on long-held notes and phrase endings with retards.

3. Wrong Intervals: In ascending passages, the steps taken are too small, while the steps taken in descending passages overshoot the desired notes.

4. Relaxing Support: Soft passages are no excuse for failing to keep the diaphragm firm. Conversely, excessive vocal production on loud passages will impugn [*sic*] note accuracy.

5. Parts Not Learned: Lip synching by crows and leaners that are a split second behind cause a poor approximation of the pitch.

6. Scooping: Attempts to approach the note from below won't reach the desired pitch. Always think above the target pitch.

7. Large Up/Down Intervals: Jumps of more than a third frequently result in inac-

Going Flat (From Page 4)

curacies. At home, practice the intervals over and over.

8. Not Listening: Seek a unit section sound and all singers should tune to the melody.

Schedule Variations for the Times

By George Trigg

Normally, the New Yorker Times is distributed on the first Wednesday of each month, and the deadline for contributions is the preceding Thursday morning. However, during the next several months, the Editor, who also takes care of the production and at least part of the distribution, has some travel plans which will interfere with the usual schedule. The revised dates are as follows:

March issue: Normal

April issue: Deadline 26 March; distribution 6 April

May issue: Deadline 27 April; distribution 11 May

June issue: Deadline 10 p.m. 24 May for hand or snail-mail contributions, 10 a.m. 25 May for on-line; distribution 8 June

July issue: Deadline 30 May; distribution 13 July

August issue: Deadline 28 July; distribution 3 August

September issue: Deadline 1 September, distribution 14 September

Please keep these variations in mind. The deadline will always be given in the preceding month's issue.

Corrected Coming Events

By Eric Dickstein, Chapter President

Note the following changes in the "Coming Events" panel from previous information:

The February board meeting will be held on 16 February.

This and future board meetings will begin at 6.00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m.

Roger Payne's coaching session has been postponed from 16 February to 9 March.

The Young Lass and Set Three

By Bob Bartley, Editor
Danbury Chapter's *Hatter Chatter*,
from which this was taken

We were about halfway through our third, and final, set of the evening, singing "I'm Sitting On Top Of The World," when one of the members signaled Joe Hudson to look at the young girl just to his left, behind him. He turned and noticed that she was directing the chorus right along with him. He immediately went over, took her hand, and led her out in front of the chorus. With her hands still moving to direct us, neither she nor the chorus missed a beat as she conducted the song right up to the tag, when Joe arose from the seat he had taken to watch her direct, and both brought the song to its conclusion.

With a bright smile on her face, Samantha Varajao bowed, first to the audience, then to the chorus. A roar of applause erupted and the Danbury High School sophomore was in seventh heaven. It was a rare moment of delight, a moment to cherish: the chorus and audience emphatically showing its appreciation for this spontaneous addition to the performance.

I think we may have found something that we can use ... when we are performing. The Mad Hatters were known for being unorthodox at times, but it has been quite a while since something this original has occurred.

It gave the chorus a boost and was very much an audience pleaser, proving that when you are having fun, it shows. When you can radiate that feeling to your audience, they will become part of the performance. Not only will they appreciate the unique entertainment, they will also remember you for the emotion you created!

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

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