

# The Newyorker Times

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



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New Series, Volume 7  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 2  
February 2006

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## Installation Dinner Held 28 January

Details on page 3

## Spencer Hired to Lead Society Music Programs

Executive Director Ed Watson taps  
dynamic musician  
to lead Society music programs

Rick Spencer has accepted the position of Director of Music and Education for the Barbershop Harmony Society.

“Every current and future member of this organization should be given the opportunity to experience barbershop harmony the way he wants it,” said Spencer. “I’m looking forward to leading a team of staff and volunteers in expanding and developing educational programs to enrich the experience of all Barbershoppers.

“These are exciting times for the Barbershop Harmony Society. Our Youth In Harmony and Collegiate Development programs continue to grow due to the efforts of the music staff and the countless volunteers involved each year. We are developing programs to build on this groundwork, to work more closely with other *a cappella* and music organizations to get more young people singing and enjoying the experience that *a cappella* music offers.

“When you get right down to it, it’s all about experiencing the music together, with people who enjoy singing this music as much as you do. That’s the very heart of the traditions and fraternal aspects of the Barbershop Harmony Society, core values lived deeply by heroes I follow: Joe Liles, Mel Knight, Greg Lyne.”

A 17-year member of the Society, Spencer started barbershopping at the age of ten, and has directed choruses, sung in international-caliber quartets, coached, and taught throughout North America and Europe. Prior to his appointment, Spencer traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, and abroad for the Society as a music educator, specializing in youth development programs. He regularly conducted clinics for high-school and university music programs. His presentations included an emphasis on the stylistic characteristics of (See “Spencer” in Col. 2)

## Newyorkers Welcomed At Castle Point VA Medical Center

By Ralph Harlow

The Newyorkers gave their usual holiday performance at the Castle Point VA Medical Center on 14 January. The chorus did five songs, with “Macnamara’s Band” getting the best response. Then the Hudson Valley Edition did two songs, followed by the Paradocs with two songs. The chorus then returned and did their Christmas Carol package, and even though it was after Christmas it was well received.

The audience was sparse; there were only two attendants to bring the patients down. I would like to have seen it full. I would like to suggest that the chorus volunteer to help bring the patients down. It might take some working out, but I think it can be done.

The Hudson Valley Edition quartet then went to the nursing home Wingate and performed for a resident friend of Duke’s family. She and her friends were so receptive that we ended up doing most of our repertoire. It was a moving fifteen minutes for us.

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### Spencer (From Col. 1)

barbershop harmony, tuning, and how singing barbershop can have a positive effect in other genres of vocal music.

In his new role, Spencer will direct the operation of all music education programs and activities which promote the preservation, education, and growth of barbershop singing; oversee the Old Songs Library; operate the annual Harmony University; and manage the music recording, licensing, and publishing activities for the Society.

“Rick Spencer is a fine musician, vocalist, arranger, teacher and extremely well organized,” said Joe Liles, a past Executive Director who has served as Interim Director of Music Education the past eight months. “He is in touch with youth and has great vision for the future of the Society. He has already proven himself to be a good manager. I’m looking forward to working with him in his new capacity.”


Spencer earned a bachelor of arts degree in music and a bachelor of science degree in music education from the University of Connecticut. Prior to (Continued on Page 2)

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 Steve Miller  
 Dick Schaffer  
 Immediate Past President ..... Eric Dickstein  
 Youth Outreach ..... Bill Standish  
 Chorus Director ..... Renée Silverstein  
 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](http://www.newyorkerschorus.org)



8 Feb	Taping of video to be sent to troops; uniform long-sleeved white shirt, music tie, black trousers, shoes, and socks
10 Feb	Singout on Mayor's program—time and exact place (somewhere in Poughkeepsie) tba
14 Feb	<b>Singing Valentines</b>
15 Feb	<b>Coaching by Roger Payne—try to arrive early for the weekly rehearsal</b>
17–18 Mar	<b>Yankee Division Contest, Manchester, CT</b>
20 May	<b>Annual Show</b>

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**  
**22 FEBRUARY**

**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

**Happy Birthdays in February:**

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

**Happy Anniversaries in February:**  
 None

**Spencer** (*From Page 1*)  
 his time with the Society, Spencer was a sixth-grade general music and chorus teacher in Connecticut.  
 Spencer and his wife, Melissa, reside in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with their baby girl, Caitlyn.

**Step Into the Future**  
**At Harmony University 2006**

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*, 26 January

The Barbershop Harmony Society will return to St. Joseph, Missouri July 30-August 6, 2006 for an upgraded, exciting, new Harmony University.

While Missouri Western State University is the same location we have held Harmony College in the past, it is definitely NOT the same place. Significant remodeling and new meeting space (with room for more people) has once again made it an excellent fit for one of the most exciting weeks in barbershop: Harmony University!

**New Facilities (We asked, they listened)::**

- New dormitory! Everyone housed in the newest dorms on campus (*See "Harmony U." on Page 5*)

## Successful Installation Dinner Held On 28 January

Forty-two members and guests attended a successful Installation Dinner at Coco's Restaurant, Hyde Park, on 28 January. The installing officers were Garry "Butch" Ashdown and Greg Howard. Further details are in the following material, provided by Bob Chieffo.

### *Joe Alber Memorial*

## Newyorker of the Year



*The Newyorker of the Year is a member of the Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society who has exhibited sustained, unselfish service to the chapter, usually but not necessarily peaking in the award year. He or she epitomizes the spirit of the Newyorkers by cheerfully assuming and discharging many chapter responsibilities resulting in the short and long term health and success of the chapter. The award was founded by 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.*

Life is full of mysteries—some deep, some shallow. Questions have been nagging and tugging at human consciousness for eons, questions like...

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?  
 What do little birdies see when they get knocked unconscious?  
 Why do we park on a driveway and drive on a parkway?  
 Can fat people go skinny-dipping?

The Newyorkers are a mysterious bunch too. How do we accomplish all we do in a year? Unraveling these mysteries brings us to praise members with our annual...

### AWARDS OF MERIT

#### **Phantom of the Chorus** award to **Tom Koman**

...for stealthily handling PR for Singing Valentines, Annual Show, and UCanSing2 programs

#### **Behind the Curtain** award to **Ron Pierson**

...for tech planning and management of our Annual Shows, HarmonyFests, and Hospice performances

#### **Young Talent Search** award to **Bill Standish**

...for once again heading the team producing our youth HarmonyFest '05

#### **Big Blue Bucks** award to **Antony Takahashi**

...for obtaining a \$1000 IBM grant for HarmonyFest '05

#### **Water Boy** award to **Bill Florie**

...for HarmonyFest '05 water donation and providing special Chapter break refreshments

#### **Frying Pan To Fire** award to **Eric Dickstein**

...for assuming the 2005 Chapter Presidency as a fledgling two-year member

**Brains and Brawn** award to **Steve Miller**

...for Leading two quartets, being section leader and BOD member, and handling all riser transport and set-ups

**Musical Magic** award to **John Hadigan**

...for producing Learning CDs, coaching college students, being assistant Director and chorus coach, and chairing the Barbershop Pick

**Service Star** award to **George Trigg**

...for continued publishing of *The Newyorker Times* and exemplary support of all the Chapter's activities

## NEWYORKER OF THE YEAR

Our 2005 Newyorker of the Year is also a mystery, a Man of Many Hats. We shall explore the following clues to unravel this riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside a hamburger.

**Upright and punctual with excellent attendance**

- has a model attendance record

**Restless; likes to rearrange furniture and set up displays**

- since joining would regularly set up chairs and the Guest Table

**Gives his thoughts for free; no penny needed**

- participated in Board meetings as a nonvoting member

**Shows tendencies toward ham-ishness**

- has a positive attitude, always smiles and is congenial

**Pitches in whenever needed**

- is a backup pitch piper  
- takes initiative and is willing to serve the Chapter

**Quartet activities take high priority**

- active in Singing Valentines and "pick-up" Chapter quartets  
- sings Tenor in registered quartet: *Paradox*

**Has more ticket dealings than a Metro-North conductor**

- produced tickets for HarmonyFest and Barbershop Pick  
- managed member ticket sales for HarmonyFest and Annual Show  
- updated Show Mailing List from ticket stubs

**Can crawl through the web in a GIF-y**

- is Chapter webmaster: maintains calendar, implemented a news "crawl", added photos and *The Newyorker Times* postings

**Is the Chapter's IPP... Immediate Past President and now the...**

2005 JOE ALBER MEMORIAL  
NEWYORKER OF THE YEAR

*Eric Dickstein*



Awarded January 28, 2006 by the Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



**Harmony U.** (From Page 2)

- “Smart” classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment
- The new Fulkerson Center for general sessions and other special events is attached to the cafeteria—no walking!

**New Show site: St. Joseph Theater**

- 1200-seat theater
- Featuring Realtime 2005 International Quartet Champions

**Open Enrollment**

- New facilities mean plenty of room for ALL Barbershoppers of ALL stripes, from around the world!

**New Weekend Session**

- Can't make it for the whole week? Meet up with the week-long Harmony University students on Thursday night, August 3, 2006 for the “Mid-Term Bash” and then a special opening session just for you. Choose from over 20 classes on Friday and Saturday as an individual or bring your quartet.

Register online now! <http://secure.spebsqsa.org>

/HarmonyUniversity/index.aspx

**Antique Gold Wins Seniors' Quartet Contest**

**Like sons, like father: bringing home the gold**

From the Society's Newsletter *LiveWire*, 26 January

Sacramento, CA, Jan. 21—Antique Gold of Greater Vancouver, B.C., took the gold this afternoon in the hotly contested Barbershop Harmony Society's international seniors quartet competition. Only two points separated Antique Gold, with a score of 856 points, from the second place

Vintage Gold of California's Bay Area. Only four points made the difference between first and the third-place Chicago Times of the greater Chicago area. A total of 26 quartets from the U.S., Canada, Sweden, and England competed in the annual contest.

This may be the first time that a father and his sons won their respective competitions within months of each other. Members of Antique Gold are tenor Tom Bates, 70; lead George Wakeham, 63; baritone Charlie Metzger, 59; and his brother bass George Metzger, 58. Charlie and George are father and uncle, respectively, of Tom and Mark Metzger, two members of Realtime, the quartet that swept the regular quartet internationals last July.

Members of Vintage Gold are tenor Ron Bass, 64; lead Gary Bolles, 58; baritone Pat Henley, 69; and bass Jim Sherman, 67. Chicago Times members are tenor Ray Henders, 77; lead Eugene Koth, 61; baritone Dave Cowin, 67; and bass Dave Boo, 59.

Rounding out the top five medallist positions are the following:

- Fourth place: Play It Again! from Ottawa, Ontario—tenor Rod McGillivray, 67; lead Jim Whitehead, 71; baritone Andre Carriere, 65; and bass Bill Vermue, 57.

- Fifth place: Silver Chords of Bellevue, Washington—tenor Dave Brasher, 70; lead Les Walter, 63; baritone Barry Knott, 59; and bass Dick Swanson, 76.

No member of any competing seniors quartet may be younger than 55, and the cumulative age of the quartet must be 240 years or more. They are judged on presentation, singing and music.



## Pictures Of "Harmony For Hospice"

Thanks to Bob Chieffo



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

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