

# The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 4  
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 7  
July 2003

## **PLAY BALL! HARMONYFEST 2003... CONTINUING THE CELEBRATION**

By Bill Standish  
Chairman, HarmonyFest 2003

### *What Celebration? The celebration of youth in music!*

Still batting 1000, the Newyorkers will once again step up to the plate to produce and host HarmonyFest 2003. Most of us know by now that this is a day-long vocal clinic for high-school students in the greater Hudson Valley area and extending throughout the entire northeast. The festival is capped by an evening parade of barbershop harmony featuring our high-school barbershop choruses, enhanced by performances from gold medal quartets Moondance, Region 15 Sweet Adelines International, and Overdrive, from our own Northeastern District. We also hope to have our NED College Quartet Champs, Men In Black, on stage. There will be a special appearance by the First Ladies, a 17-member all-girls high-school barbershop-style chorus from F.D. Roosevelt High School. The festival will be held on Saturday, 15 November 2003 at Valley Central High School in Montgomery, NY. Joining the Newyorkers as associate sponsors are Song of the Valley and Evergreen Sweet Adeline Choruses. The choruses have combined to provide the day-long clinic for students from over eighty school districts from north of Albany to Westchester County.

Maintaining a perfect batting average comes only from past successes. HarmonyFest 2003 will hit the field having gained its momentum from two previous outings in other ballparks where several heroics brought home the victories with last-minute ace pitching and phenomenal pinch hitting.

### **HARMONYFEST 2001:**

Terrorist bats on 9/11 bring bewilderment to the field of play when the rotation batters of Swing Shift hook up with Song Of The Valley, Racing City, and Newyorkers Choruses to sing the National Anthem and bring crowds of supporters to their feet as the players take the field.

One week before the festival the Newyorkers are told they do not have the proper insurance certificate and cannot hold the event. Pinch-hitter Scott Salladin lays down a bunt and brings home the proper certificate just days be-

fore the curtain goes up.

Two weeks before the festival the Newyorkers are advised by Monroe-Woodbury Schools that there is NO lighting and sound technician available to run the evening performance. Ace pitcher Ron Pierson throws a strike and nails down two high school students to run the lighting board, and Ron steps in with his technical "line-up" plans to seal the victory with state-of-the-art lighting and sound coordination.

### **HARMONYFEST 2002:**

On festival day, the stadium dome opens up to a sky full of blustery wind, torrential rain, sleet, and snow. On the brink of a rain delay or, worse, cancellation, buses and cars roll in with the teams of students to send festival organizers to their feet with the bases loaded.

Song Of The Valley Chorus finds their team without a director, and Renée Silverstein, batting in the critical 5th position, steps up to the plate and cracks her first of two home runs in a last-minute directing mission, only to return immediately to her own Newyorkers with another long ball for back-to-back homers

No game is complete without the humorous moments and antics on the field. The fearsome foursome "Footlighters" takes the field in colorful and entertaining gear during the 7th-inning stretch to give the crowd its needed entertainment and provide the spark to carry the festival through the final out, until victory was in hand.


Realizing that the unexpected weather has virtually wiped out all media coverage, Tracy Baxter (Cable 6 News) and Ken Hughes (Frank Thorne videographer) team up to plant bold headlines throughout the entire Hudson Valley Region with "edge-of-the-seat" filming and a professional CD video to give area barbershop fans the highlights of victory.

Obviously it takes a full team of players and support staff to bring home any victory. There were many more players than can be mentioned here that put our HarmonyFest program in the World Series. My thanks to all of you for past performances. I know you will all be on the playing field for HarmonyFest 2003 and future festivals. For the kids, it's what we barbershoppers do...it's who we are. **PLAY BALL!**

**The Newyorker Times**  
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 Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of  
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 Public Relations Officer ..... Bill Standish  
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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.newyorkerschorus.org](http://www.newyorkerschorus.org)



11 Jul "First" Friday luncheon—12 noon at Aloy's Restaurant  
 14 Jul Sing National Anthem at Renegades game—see article on Page 5  
 16 Jul BOD meeting—6 p.m. at the church  
 27 Jul–3 Aug Harmony College, St. Joseph, MO  
 8–10 Aug **Harmony College Northeast, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, MA**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**  
**30 JULY**



**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.

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

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Butch Ashdown       | 2  |
| Werner Schanzenbach | 3  |
| Doris Sherow        | 4  |
| Tony Krzywicki      | 12 |
| Bob Hitchcock       | 13 |
| Bud Fair            | 14 |
| Bob Waltke          | 14 |
| Charlie Cortellino  | 28 |
| Breck Martyn        | 28 |

**ERRATUM**  
 An error in transmission led to an error in the letter from Steve Ross, regarding his surgery, in the June issue. His statement about being unable to attend referred not to the Annual Show, but to the (then) forthcoming meeting of Newcaneweng, the District's honorary society. We regret this misstatement.

**NEWYORKER VISITS BABS CLUB**  
 By George Trigg  
 I spent the end of April and the first two weeks of May in London, England. In planning my trip, I wanted to take the opportunity to visit a club of BABS, the British Association of Barbershop Singers. I got on the Web and looked for likely places. There is a club in London, but its web site didn't impress me. Instead, I picked a club in Epsom (the home of the famous derby), which turns out to be about a 45-minute train ride from London. I got in touch with one of the men listed as contact people, and eventually made arrangements: They would be expecting me, and if I called them from the Epsom station when I got in, they would be there within five minutes to (See "BABS Visit" on Page 3)

**BABS Visit** (From Page 2)

pick me up and take me to the meeting place. They were as good as their word.

The club (the term they use for what we call chapter) is somewhat smaller than the New Yorkers in terms of the size of the roster, but they evidently have fewer inactive members than we do, so that the number of men on the risers is about the same as we get. Like us, they start out with warm-up, though with more emphasis on the physical and less on the vocal. Like our meetings, theirs lasts from 7:30 to 10:00 with a break for coffee or tea at about 9:00, but with no business meeting.

They were preparing for a performance soon, and so they all had their uniforms, which include a sizable gold-colored medallion on a green ribbon. See the accompanying pictures, in which I am fairly obvious by my not being in uniform. Nobody mentioned the significance of the medallion, and I didn't ask.



The Downsmen of Epsom, Surrey, England, with a visitor

Their repertoire includes some songs we do—I particularly remember “Georgia on My Mind”—but somewhat more of current popular songs. They do no quartetting, or at least they did not the night I was there. They apparently include tag singing in each meeting, but at least the night I was there they sang only one, which seemed to be one they had at least met before but for which they had paper. I must confess that I don't recall it at all. Of course, they invited me to stand on the risers with them for at least part of the rehearsal, and of course they provided me with a guest book. I managed to keep up pretty well with even the songs that I had never heard before.

The meeting concluded with “Let's Get Together

Again,” segueing immediately into “Keep the Whole World Singing.” I was honored by being asked to take over the direction of the latter. And, of course, I gave them “It's Great to Be a Barbershopper.” All in all, it was a very enjoyable experience.

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## STILL MORE HCNE STUFF

By Jim Dodge, NED VP—Music and Performance  
Dean Harmony College Northeast

1. Time for more info on the courses we are offering at Harmony College Northeast this August. One of the tracks that we instituted last year, to amazing success, was the Assistant Director's class. Our reasoning is that we need to be grooming new and better directors because of the extraordinary importance that position holds in each chapter. So we talked with two of the best directors in NED, Steve Tramack (Nashua) and Rob Mance (Montréal), and they came up with our class at HCNE. We split the curriculum into two parts to be taken over a two year span with the idea that potential directors must also be filling their knowledge base with other things like sight-reading or presentation or whatever.

Last year we had 17 men take the first half of the course with Rob Mance. We hope that these men will be back this year to finish it up with Rob when he teaches Part II. In the meantime, for men who would like to begin exploring becoming a director, Steve Tramack will be giving Part I to set you on your way.

We have urged every chapter to consider sending at least one man to this class. He could be one of your section leaders or maybe just the new guy who has fallen in love with the hobby and wants to find out more. Talk it up in your chapter and be bold and offer to pay his way. If you sent someone last year, send someone else this year to help him. It will be an investment for your future.

2. Although some of you might already know this and many of you won't care, the District House of Delegates meeting has been moved to HCNE and will be held on Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. I mention it because, if you are a delegate, the chapter must pay your way to wherever the meeting is being held. Why not plan to stay the whole weekend, represent your chapter, get educated, have a grand time, and do it on the chapter's nickel? The cost for the weekend is \$120, and that is probably cheaper than what the chapter would have to pay (it is a legitimate chapter expense!) if it paid for your hotel room at a convention where the meetings are usually held. Register online at <http://newebgroup.com/ned/Schools/hcne/index.htm>

3. It's not too early to push the linens and pillows thing. That means you have to provide your own of both!!! And line up that fan (we recommend the oscillating kind—quieter!) because, although we've ordered cool weather, Mother Nature has a mind of her own! Then again, maybe summer won't arrive until September which looks about right given what she (See “More HCNE” on Page 4)

**More HCNE** (From Page 3)  
has given us so far.

4. Our good friend, Rick Spencer, Kenosha's newest and finest music man, will be on board to teach a class called "Tune It Or Die!" Rick is being mum about the contents. Something about knowing the notes isn't always what makes chords ring. There are lots of other factors like how we sing them. Well, we'll let Rick tell you what he means!

5. The "dates" police will be after me if I don't mention them and the other details, so here goes: 8-10 August 2003 at Fitchburg State College. Friday BBQ from 5 to 7 p.m. and straight-out fun from there on until Sunday morning. Get with it and register!!

6. Before we leave: We received devastating news this week that Rob Henry, baritone of Gas House Gang and brother of Jim Henry, GHG's bass, is hospitalized with a diagnosis of esophageal cancer. Treatments have begun, but no one knows the prognosis at this date. Our hearts go out to Rob and brother Jim and to Rich and Kipp, as well as to Rob's family. They are accepting e-mails for Rob at jim@gashousegang.com They said the last stack they brought to him was a foot high. We'll keep you posted on how this might effect the Gang's appearance at HCNE as we learn more.

PS: Have you arranged for a Standing Ovation review of your annual show yet? Get back to me and I'll put you in touch with the right people.

#### ADDENDUM

A. We are happy to say that we miscalculated the number of quartets registered for the school. At the moment, we have 24 quartets lined up. The good news continues with the fact that we are zeroing in on our 32nd coach so it looks like we will have room for 8 more quartets. Remember that your registration is not complete until we receive your payment. Six of our 24 quartets have not paid yet.

B. We have been in contact with Gas House Gang and things are looking positive for them to have some kind of a presence at the school. We'll be able to nail down more after Montreal but it's looking good at this moment.

C. After a year off because of family illness, we have the maestro himself, Steve Plumb, back in harness at HCNE. If you haven't been touched by Steve's enthusiasm for our hobby, you have been missing something special. A great teacher!! This year Steve will be teaching the History of Barbershop as well as Understanding the Judging System. Both qualify to fill the prerequisites for Director Certification.

D. Finally, our last *new* class this year could have a positive impact on every single chapter. Dave Patterson is the Bass section leader for the Nashua Granite Statesmen and is responsible for that huge, rumbling bass sound that is becoming the trademark of the GS. Dave will be teaching a class called "How to be a Great Section Leader" to help you chapter guys to find out how to make your chorus better. Now, I know that in some of our smaller chapters the section leader IS the section (hello tenors!) but you can still learn some tricks about how to make your section better.

After all, you go into each rehearsal with great motivation (if only the other sections would...!).

## THANKS FROM MEN IN BLACK

A letter from Todd Lamson  
NED VP, Young Men in Harmony

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to be a member and an officer of a District as charitable as the Northeastern District.

A request went out to you to help out our College Quartet Representatives, and you came through in spades. Enough money has been raised to send Men In Black to Montreal with all room and travel expenses covered. I cannot imagine another District being this excited about YMIH activities, nor can I imagine another District more generous.

The following units were represented by either a chapter, a quartet, or individual's donations:

Plattsburgh  
Schenectady  
Portsmouth  
Manchester  
Overdrive Quartet  
New Haven  
Nashua  
Concord  
Hartford  
Pittsfield  
Poughkeepsie  
Litchfield  
Beverly  
Providence  
Meriden

Your chapter and individual contributions will be reported to the HF Chairman and will be reflected toward your chapter's HF contribution totals for the year.

The final stage of support for MIB is to be at Montréal, attend the Pep Rally previously advertised by the District President, and scream and yell for MIB as loud as possible! They will make us proud!

M-I-B!  
M-I-B!  
M-I-B!  
M-I-B!

Sincerely,  
Todd Lamson

## CLEVER ADVERTISING

Thanks to Ted Demsky,  
the Editor's Man of Note

The following advertisement appeared in an Atlanta newspaper:

SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity (See "Advertising" on Page 5)

**Advertising** (From Page 4)

unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for Daisy.

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8-week old black Labrador retriever.

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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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### INTERNATIONAL CONTEST RESULTS

For the benefit of those who did not attend the International Convention and Contest in Montréal, we give the top five finishers in each of the contests, and the placement of the NED entries.

#### QUARTET CONTEST

| <u>Name and district</u> | <u>Score</u> | <u>%</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. Power Play (PIO)      | 8099         | 90.0     |
| 2. Gotcha! (FWD)         | 8072         | 89.7     |
| 3. Metropolis (FWD)      | 8051         | 89.5     |
| 4. Uptown Sound (JAD)    | 7988         | 88.8     |
| 5. Riptide (DIX)         | 7967         | 88.5     |

Road Show finished 35th, with a percentage of 77.2, and Northeast Connection finished 40th, with a percentage of

76.7. There were 42 quartets competing.

#### CHORUS CONTEST

| <u>Name and chapter</u>                     | <u>Score</u> | <u>%</u> |
|---|--------------|----------|
| 1. Vocal Majority (Dallas, TX)              | 2838         | 94.6     |
| 2. The Northern Lights (Toronto, ON)        | 2781         | 92.7     |
| 3. Ambassadors of Harmony (St. Charles, MO) | 2642         | 90.9     |
| 4. Alliance (Greater Central Ohio, OH)      | 2642         | 88.1     |
| 4. Midwest Vocal Express (Greendale, WI)    | 26.28        | 87.6     |

The Granite Statesmen (Nashua, NH) finished 17th, with a percentage of 79.2. There were 27 quartets competing.

#### MBNA AMERICA COLLEGIATE CONTEST

| <u>Name and district</u> | <u>Score</u> | <u>%</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. HEAT (SUN)            | 905          | 75.4     |
| 2. Vocal Tonic (ILL)     | 878          | 73.2     |
| 3. Last Call (JAD)       | 877          | 73.1     |
| 4. Fortissimo (SUN)      | 869          | 72.4     |
| 5. Trade Secret (MAD)    | 836          | 69.7     |

Men In Black finished 13th, with a percentage of 66.0. There were 21 quartets competing.

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### PERFORMANCE AT RENEGADES GAME

The Newyorkers have again been asked to sing the National Anthem to open a Renegades game, and to sing during the 7th inning stretch. The second song will be God Bless America.

Unfortunately, we have been assigned a day game (starting time 12:11 p.m.) rather than the usual evening game. Those who can take part are requested to be at the usual place under the stands at **11:00 a.m.** Uniform is red golf shirts and black trousers, shoes, and socks.

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### TAPES OF ANNUAL SHOW AVAILABLE

By Renée Silverstein

I totally forgot to announce at the 25 June meeting that a VHS tape of the May Show is now available. Anyone desiring a copy just needs to bring a blank tape to rehearsal and our favorite videographer will make a copy for you.

Thanks to Pat.

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