

The Newyorker Times

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



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Gotcha! Wins Quartet Contest Reveille 28th, Road Show 39th

By George Trigg

The quartet Gotcha!, from the Far Western District, came out on top of a very close contest in Louisville, with a total score of 90.5%. It had led all the way; in fact, the top ten quartets were top ten all along, and even their order showed only three changes through the three rounds. The other medalists were second, Max Q, from the Southwestern District, at 88.4 %; third, Riptide, Dixie District, 88.3%; fourth, Metropolis, Far Western District, 86.9%; and fifth, Saturday Evening Post, Southwestern District, 84.2%.

The closeness of the contest was shown by the average difference between successive scores, only 1.70%, with only two differences of as much as 2%. Clearly, the audience got its money's worth.

One feature warrants comment: The contest moved much more expeditiously than any previous contest in this writer's experience, with very little time between contestants. It is possible that the physical layout of the facilities had some effect on this, but it seems likely that most of it resulted from careful planning and execution of the pre-performance activities required of each quartet. It is to be hoped that the Cardinal District committee will share its secrets, to the end of improving future contests.

Vocal Spectrum Wins Collegiate Quartet Contest

By George Trigg

Vocal Majority, a quartet from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO, representing the Central States District, evidently took advantage of the local expertise, Ambassadors of Harmony chorus and The Gas House Gang quartet, to win the MBNA Collegiate Barbershop Quartet contest in Louisville, going away. Their score of 84.3% was 8.8 percentage points above that of their nearest rival, Four Score, from UC-Berkeley and University of San Diego (Far Western District). The remaining medalists were third (a tie), Nile Manski trio (lower case intentional), from Loyola University and University of Louisiana, Southwestern District, and Musical Island Boys (See "Collegians" on Page 3)

Ambassadors of Harmony Take Chorus Championship Granite Statesmen come in 19th

By George Trigg

The Ambassadors of Harmony, from the St. Louis, MO, chapter in the Central States District, won their first championship in Louisville with a score of 92.7%. (An earlier chorus by the same name, from the Michigan City, IN, chapter in the Cardinal District, had won in 1956.) Like the quartet contest, it was a close one, with an average difference of only 1.25%. Much of this arose from a 6.7% difference between the bottom two choruses; if one dropped the last one, the average difference between the rest is only 0.98%. The only other difference of over 2% was the 4.0% between fourth and fifth places.

The remaining medalists were second, Toronto Northern Lights, Ontario District, 90.9%; third, New Tradition, Northbrook, IL, chapter, Illinois District, 90.4%; fourth, Alexandria (VA) Harmonizers, Mid-Atlantic District, also 90.4% but with two points lower numerical score; and fifth, The Alliance, Greater Central Ohio chapter, Johnny Appleseed District, 86.4%.

Northeastern District's Granite Statesmen finished 19th. It is worth noting that they showed the greatest inconsistency across the three categories in their scoring, with Presentation scoring markedly higher than either Music or Singing. In no other contest did any competitor show such a marked discrepancy.

The Gas House Gang To Retire

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 7 June 2004

The following letter announcing the retirement of 1993 International Champion The Gas House Gang, was received from bass Dr. Jim Henry.

From The Gas House Gang

Seventeen years ago The Gas House Gang gave its first performance singing "Lida Rose" for the Alton, Illinois Municipal Band's "Tribute to Broadway" concert. We never imagined all the incredible experiences that were to come our way from that simple beginning. The Gas House Gang has sung in 49 states and 13 coun- (See "Gang" on Page 2)

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



13 June Performance at Glen Spey—arrival time 3:00 p.m.
 28 Jun–3 Jul **International Convention and Contest, Louisville, KY**
 18 Jul Performance at Moulton Baptist Church, "Choir for Hire"—arrival time 10:30 a.m.
 12–15 Aug **Harmony College Northeast and Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast, Fitchburg, MA, State College**
 3–6 Sep Bolton Landing Festival, Bolton Landing, NY
 22–24 Oct **NED Fall Convention and Contest, Lowell, MA**

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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
28 JULY

Happy Birthdays in July:

Werner Schanzenbach	4
Doris Sherow	4
Patricia Koman	12
Tony Krzywicki	12
Bob Hitchcock	13
Bob Waltke	14
Charlie Cortellino	28
Breck Martyn	28

Happy Wedding Anniversaries in July:

Kurt and Nancy Hornick	4
Dick and Lyndell Schaffer	13
Charlie and Pat Cortellino	18
Jim and Monica Larkin	27

In Memoriam

Mona Light, wife of Oldyorker Aubrey

Gang (From Page 1)

tries, they have produced five recordings, and they were awarded barbershop music's highest honor, the International Championship, in 1993. In September of last year, The Gas House Gang family and our fans were struck a terrible blow when baritone Rob Henry lost his heroic battle with esophageal cancer. The depth of love expressed by people from all over the world during that time was staggering and certainly will never be forgotten by any of us for as long as we live.

These past several months have been extremely difficult as we've not only had to cope with the loss of Rob, but also the decision as to whether or not (Continued on Page 3)

Gang (From Page 2)

we should seek out another baritone and continue on this great journey. Our burden has been eased greatly by the unbelievable assortment of talented men who have learned our repertoire and sung baritone with us at our performances during Rob's illness and beyond. We will ever be indebted to Mike Slamka, Tony DeRosa, D.J. Hiner, Jonny Moroni, and Kevin Keller for their selfless kindness.

After a great deal of soul searching and prayer, I have decided that the time has come for me to step down from The Gas House Gang. This is one of the most difficult decisions of my life. Rich and Kipp (and our original tenor Joe Fink) are brothers to me, and the bond of love and friendship that we share is unbreakable. It is extremely hard to give up this thing that has been such a blessing to all of us, but I feel that the Lord is leading me in other directions, professionally and personally. I am deeply grateful—though not surprised—that Rich and Kipp have been so understanding and supportive of my decision. They agree that it is difficult to envision The Gas House Gang without Rob.

Louisville will mark our last AIC performance, but we will fulfill all our show commitments through 2005. It would be absolutely impossible in just a few words to adequately thank all the people who have supported us these past 17 years. Of course we have to mention David Wright who has worn so many hats, from mentor to arranger to coach to recording engineer to (most important) friend throughout our career. We also thank all of our other coaches, especially Jim Massey, who was there with us from the beginning; the members of the Ambassadors of Harmony, who have held us up since before anyone else knew or cared about who we were; all the chapters who trusted us to come and perform on their shows. You've given us enough memories to last several lifetimes. To all our barbershop family and fans who cheered with us through the joyful times and wept with us through the difficult ones, how we wish we could repay you even the smallest portion of what you've given us through the years. Finally, we could not have lived this charmed life without the unselfish support of our families. Our feeling of loss is tempered by the thought of being able to spend more time with them. Thanks to each and every one of you for so many years of joy and friendship.

Sincerely,
Jim Henry and The Gas House Gang

Nova Scotia Fall 2005?

By Scott Salladin

Now is the time to decide if the chapter wants to compete at the 2005 District Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, the last weekend of September 2005. The change in contest time was due to the ferry schedule going to Nova Scotia. The ferry ends the first week of October. Please let Scott know if you wish to attend.

Collegians (From Page 1)

(M.I.B.), from Tawa College, Victoria University, New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers, both with 74.8%; and fifth, Fortissimo, from Palm Beach Atlantic University and Palm Beach Community College, Sunshine District, 73.5%.

Like the "big boys'" contests, this one was close, with an average separation of only 1.29%, much of which is accounted for by Vocal Spectrum's lead and a 4.6% difference between 18th and 19th places.

There was one sour note. One of the competing quartets, which will not be identified here, clearly had not learned the fundamentals of a *cappella* quartet singing, such as sustaining the last note of a phrase; they also had note problems. Their participation in the contest reflects poorly on the district that sponsored them, who should have either given them more coaching or, if the young men were really incapable of learning the necessary techniques, withdrawn their sponsorship.

Chapter Officers Needed For 2005

By Scott Salladin, President

Members of the Poughkeepsie Chapter Board of Directors are needed for 2005. The following offices are to be filled:

President
VP Chapter Development- Membership
VP Music & Performance
Secretary
Treasurer
3 Board Members-at-Large

If you think that you would like to hold one of these offices please see Scott Salladin.

E-Mail Reminder

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An Editorial View From Elsewhere

From Traverse City Chapter's "The Chorister"
Elbert Ford, Editor
by way of Worcester Chapter's "Key Notes"
Roy Hayward, Editor

I don't want to sound negative to you guys, but I have a pet peeve (probably not the only one). This seems to happen in every group that I've ever sung with. The scene is this: The director is in front trying to work out some hard spot in a song. He/She will want (See "Elsewhere" on Page 4)

Elsewhere (From Page 3)

to have two parts sing in duo so he/she can pinpoint the problem. Invariably, you hear some guy slipping his part in with the duet or trio. Are they trying to prove to the rest of us that they “know” their part? I’ve observed that many times they don’t! But the end result is that it makes it hard

on the director to critique the ones he really wants to do it.

So, please, guys, wait your turn. There will be plenty of time to show your expertise. Maybe sometimes we miss the director’s instructions and incorrectly start singing—another reason to pay attention.

Pictures from the Annual Show Afterglow


Guest quartet Scollay Square



Scollay Square and the Footlighters form an octet



Bass talk: Scollay Square’s Steve Barrett and Rudy Veltre



TheFootlighters—a bit worse for the wear of their set



Sing with the Champs I: Dan Landa on lead



Sing with the Champs II: Editor Trigg as bass

The 10 Vocal Commandments Every Serious Singer Should Keep

From *TheSingingSpot.com* Newsletter,
Provided by <http://YouCanSingwithImpact.com>
by way of the Harmonet,
courtesy of Christopher Baker
Forwarded by Scott Salladin

I. THOU SHALT keep the vocal cords moist at all times:

a. Consume at least 8 glasses of water a day.

b. Stay away from excessive amounts of diuretics (substances that dehydrate your body and your vocal cords). Two of the number one culprits are alcohol and caffeine. So think twice before you have that second cup.

c. The really serious singer will sleep with a humidifier to make sure the vocal chords are kept moist during sleep.

II. THOU SHALT get at least 8 hours of sleep a night. A singer's body is his/her instrument. Mistreat your instrument and it will show. Make sure to give your body and voice the proper rest it deserves.

III. THOU SHALT NOT smoke. Among other incredible health concerns, smoking dries out the mucous-membrane lining of the nose and throat, which adversely affects the voice.

IV. THOU SHALT NOT overuse or mistreat the voice. This would include talking over loud noises such as groups of people and loud machinery. Just like any other muscle, your vocal membranes and muscles can suffer from fatigue. In other words, don't talk too much! It is also stressful to the voice to talk too quickly, so slow it down. Those people that have no choice but to tax their voices on a daily basis—singers, professional speakers, teachers, cheerleaders, auctioneers, etc.—need to protect the voice.

V. THOU SHALT protect yourself from stress and nerve attacks prior to performances. We suggest the following to fight the gig day jitters:

a. Develop a checklist for gig preparation. It might include dry cleaning, reviewing lyrics, or getting your hair cut! (Follow these guidelines and you should be calm, cool, collected and able to give your best performance.)

b. Leave a few minutes early for the gig or rehearsal so that you can focus prior to the performance. (If this is a new location, be sure you have the proper directions and contact phone number ready ahead of time.)

c. Develop a habit of warming up with an organized vocal exercise program on the way to the gig to prepare

your voice properly.

d. Prepare materials to help you during an "off night" or for special circumstances: lyric books, practice CDs and tapes.

e. Have promotional material such as business cards and flyers organized so that you can get at them easily at the appropriate time. Marketing yourself as a singer is as much a part of the battle as singing and performing well in the music industry.

Remember, properly preparing yourself allows you to focus all your energy on your performance.

VI. THOU SHALT NOT eat or drink milk products before performing. Sorry, that means no chocolate or ice cream, among some other great tasting foods. These products cause the mucous-membrane lining of the vocal cords to create a great deal of mucus that covers your vocal cords. In case you can't guess or don't already know, that makes it very hard to sing well. [Isn't this a well-debunked myth? CB]

VII. THOU SHALT keep thyself healthy and virus free. We suggest eating right, exercising regularly (don't forget that cardiovascular work to improve your breathing!), and taking a quality vitamin supplement each and every day. Remember, a singer's body is his/her instrument. A finely tuned and maintained instrument will perform at a much higher level than an instrument that has been neglected.

VIII. THOU SHALT NOT sing without properly warming up. If you were running in a marathon, would you begin without stretching your legs? Of course not. Doing this would risk reduced performance and possible cramping that would take you completely out of the race. The muscles associated with the voice organ would appreciate the same courtesy. Just like those hamstrings, your voice will reward you for taking the time to warm up properly before strenuous use.

IX. THOU SHALT smile. Smiling not only helps with tone placement of the singing voice; it also improves your attitude. Try it! It really works. It's infectious, too!

X. THOU SHALT enjoy life and celebrate every accomplishment no matter how small it may seem. Sing for fun, sing because you love it, sing because you can. Share your voice with the world and enjoy your journey as you learn not just to sing, but to sing with impact!

Tips Originally written by Yvonne DeBandi 1991.

Revised by DeBandi | Lightfoot 1999.

Additional revisions made by DeBandi 2002.

Learn more at <http://YouCanSingWithImpact.com>

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