

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 6
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 6
June 2005

HCNE—Guest Quartets

By Jim Dodge and Mike Nichols
Co-Deans, HCNE 2005

Hi everyone,

Time to bring you another preview of one of our course offerings at Harmony College Northeast this summer. But first, we really need to bring you up to speed on our guest quartets for the school. We all know and are overwhelmed by the fact that our 2003 International Champions, Power Play, will be with us. They are one of our great champions in every respect.

Our second quartet, Realtime, out of the Evergreen District, were surprising 7th place finishers at International last year on their first trip to the big show. What is astonishing for us is that as of today, based on division qualifying scores, Realtime ranks SECOND among all the qualifiers. Might it be possible that we could have the brand new, 2005 International Champs on staff?

Rounding out the staff will be the reunion appearance of the Vagabonds out of the Pioneer District. These guys are one of the three greatest International quartet who never won the Gold Medal (the other two are our own Four Rascals and the amazing Nighthawks). Although they are older, you'll get a chance to hear how they ruled the roost during the 70's, giving our Boston Common all they could handle in those contests.

Now to the class! This week we are featuring the second appearance of Steve Tramack's Vocal Boot Camp. In this all day session, Steve will take you on a journey through the human body, giving you an awareness of how your body functions as you sing and making it easier to understand what you need to do to become a better singer. There will be group classes and breakout sessions in which you will get individual vocal attention. This was our biggest class last year and more than replaces all the Vocal Production classes we have held in the past. It also drew the biggest raves on the evaluation forms (yes, Virginia, we do read them!). Sign up early and find out how the Maestro has led the Nashua Granite Statesmen to so many championships.

WHAT: Harmony College Northeast

WHERE: Fitchburg State College

WHEN: August 12–14, 2005

HOW MUCH: \$120 (Room, board, classes, and fun!)

HOW DO I SIGN UP?: Go to www.nedistrict.org and click on Harmony College Northeast.

WHAT ELSE: Don't forget to bring your own pillow! (Thought we'd forget, eh!)

Comments On the Show

By Bill Bolis, Cochairman
NED Standing Ovation Program

[The following is extracted from an extensive discussion of the show, largely looking to guide the chapter "toward making choices in future performances that garner more audience appeal and make for a better overall show experience for those who attend."]

Someone knew what to shop for when you purchased the [sound] system. I'd also like to add, the Poughkeepsie show was the first show I've reviewed since we started the Standing Ovation program two years ago where the chapter owns their own sound system. Nice! So it would seem you could add another first to your list of Poughkeepsie Newyorkers' firsts. ...

Your annual show had nice line and great flow, and all of the quartets that performed enhanced your production. I truly loved hearing so much barbershop being sung. To be honest, it was refreshing. The Newyorkers are known for putting on a wonderful show every year, and this year was no exception. Congratulations to everyone.

I liked looking up at the stage and seeing the risers dressed, instead of looking up and looking through the holes; smart thinking. You'd be surprised how many choruses don't think of dressing the risers. I personally find it distracting when they're not dressed.

Greg Howard did a real nice job as master of ceremonies. His lines were short and to the point with no unnecessary talking or moving. Greg enhanced the overall performance of the show as well. ...

In closing let me just remind all of you that your show was a complete success and you did receive a standing ovation for the overall show (See "Show" 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



25 May Performance at Hudson Haven Care Center, 37 S. Mieser Ave, Wappingers Falls, NY, Wednesday, 25 May—6 p.m. arrival, 7 p.m. performance

18 Jun Performance at Moulton Memorial Baptist Church, Newburgh, Saturday, 18 June—6 p.m. arrival, 7 p.m. performance

21 June Performance at St. Simeon Senior Housing, Poughkeepsie—arrive at 6:00 p.m. for 7:00 performance

3–10 Jul **International Covention and Contests, Salt Lake City, UT**

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
30 JUNE

Happy Birthdays in June:

Lew DiStasi	4
Larry Rand	7
Bill Standish	11
Linda Standish	12
Maty Silverstein	13
Barb Troan	14
Eleanor Veltre	24
Jim Larkin	30

Happy Anniversaries in June:

Tony and Faith Krzywicki	9
Bob and Bev Waltke	18
Larry and Nancy Rand	21
Bob and Lois Hitchcock	27

Show (From Page 1)
 and, of course, Men in Black received one as well. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and it was wonderful being with all of you. I'm really glad I made the trip.

CEO Don Harris Resigns
 From the Society's *Live Wire* Newsletter, 28 April
 A message sent on behalf of
 Society President Rob Hopkins

The Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA, Inc.) has accepted the resignation of CEO Don Harris, effective April 20, 2005.
 Effecting change, no matter how positive for the future of the Society, is a daunting (See "CEO Resigns" on Page 3)

CEO Resigns (From Page 2)

task. The Society Board remains committed to making the kinds of changes that will help the Society flourish for future generations. We fully appreciate that Society members will differ in their opinions about proposed changes. While we welcome feedback from members at any time, we also recognize that the Board and our next CEO must move ahead with changes they feel are absolutely necessary to ensure a bright future for our organization.

The Board will, as it did the last time, search for a CEO both within and outside of the Society in order to find the very best person to lead us to that future.

We are looking for someone who can align and inspire staff and volunteers to achieve the Society vision and mission, develop staff expertise, manage staff effectively, and achieve results—including membership growth—within budget constraints and according to a well-conceived business plan. Senior-level leadership success in business, industry, or association administration is required. Several years of Society membership are desirable.

We are confident that we can find such a leader. However, we will not rush the process in order to meet an arbitrary deadline.

In the meantime, the Society Board is pleased that Roger Lewis, 2002-03 Society President and a retired businessman, has agreed to take on the challenging task of serving as our Society's interim CEO.

O. C. Cash: The Early Years

By Idress Cash

From Ventura (CA) Chapter's *Seabreeze*,
Keith Bogost, Editor,
by way of Worcester's *Key Notes*,
Roy Hayward, Editor

[Note: Idress Cash was the sister of SPEBSQSA co-founder O. C. Cash. At the request of Editor Ron Dudley, she wrote this article especially for the *Gateway Gazette*. It appeared originally in the January and June/July 1983 issues. It was seen in the Fullerton (CA) chapter's *Clippin's*, Dick Cote, Editor, by way of Lake County (IN) Chapter's *Overtones*, Al Ries, Editor, and Oak Lawn Chapter's *Woodshedder*, Pat Conran, Editor.]

I was not aware of barbershopping until the big explosion of 1938. [My brother] Owen worked in a barber shop when he was a youngster, and I suppose he encountered the craft there. At home, my mother was always singing—hymns, ballads, Stephen Foster songs—while she was in the garden or busy with housework. Mother and Dad attended singing school when they were young and we had the book they used. Dad used to sit in a big chair with the book and we would look over his shoulder and sing. But not often. Dad's time to sing was Sunday mornings. He used to get up singing some favorite hymn—very loud.

When we were teenagers, groups of us used to spend a lot of time singing around a piano. Owen was the leader in our crowd. He managed to get songs from the current New

York musical shows. He also visited with friends in neighboring towns. Then Owen learned to play the cornet and played all the Sousa marches. I played all the accompaniments and we made a lot of noise.

Then he switched to the trombone and more noise. Then he took some violin lessons and explored the world of classical music for a time. In the latter part of World War I, Owen was in Officers' Training School. I have no idea whether he sang barbershop style there; he could have. It is evident he knew the craft so surely he must have practiced it.

One Friday afternoon in the spring of 1938, I stopped by my brother's house. The table was set for 12 and he told me he had invited some men friends for a stag dinner; they wanted to see his new house. He wanted them to see the club room which was decorated according to his plan. It was in that room that the seed was sown that grew into the Society for the Preservation and Propagation of Barbershop Quartet Singing in the United States (SPPEBQSUS [*sic*]). The men had such a good time, someone suggested that they meet again, and that was the meeting on the roof garden of the hotel.

When the story appeared in newspapers all over the USA, men began writing letters to Owen wanting to know how they could be part of such a group. When Owen and Mr. Hall met in the Muehlebach Hotel and talked it over, the answer became clear: incorporate. That provided a home for the many "orphans" out there crying to be adopted. The movement was really born that night when 27 men sang under the stars on a hotel roof.

Schedule Variations

Jul issue: Deadline 30 Jun, distr. 13 Jul
Aug issue: Deadline 28 Jul, distr. 3 Aug
Sep issue: Deadline 1 Sep, distr. 14 Sep

An Unexpected Opportunity

By George Trigg

As many of you are aware, I was out of town from 25 May through 6 June. But you may not be aware that I spent the last part of the first week in Windsor, Ontario, attending the annual Seminar of the Ontario Genealogical Society. (Windsor, for those who don't know, is just across the Detroit River from Detroit.) The theme of the Seminar was "Cross Border Heritage," and focused on the massive flow of migrants that has taken place, in both directions, between southwestern Ontario and Michigan. It is not widely known, but for many years the Port of Detroit has been second only to the Port of New York in number of immigrants passing through to the U. S.

There was a banquet the final evening, having as its theme she "Roaring Twenties." Thus it was quite appropriate that there was a pre-dinner entertainment by a barber-shop chorus, the Sun Parlour Chorus from the Windsor chapter. They presented a well-assorted program, ranging from inspirational songs to up (See "*Opportunity*" on Page 4)

Opportunity *(From Page 3)*

tunes. One example of the latter category was "Hello, Mary Lou"; another was "Don't Bring Lulu," for which they brought up the chairperson of the organizing committee, who was not warned in advance, to portray Lulu. She is a good sport (I have known her for several years), and the whole thing went off very well. They invited members of the audience to join in on songs they knew. I don't know wheth-

er anyone besides me did, but I certainly did.

And finally, the M. C. said, "We understand that there is an octogenarian barbershopper in the audience, and we'd like to have George Trigg come up and join us in singing our standard closing song, 'Keep the Whole World Singing.'" I made my way up to where they were standing, and they put me in the middle of the front row. It was an experience I will always remember, with great pleasure.

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

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