

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 4
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 5
May 2003

CONTEST RESULT

By Renée Silverstein
Director, The Newyorkers

For those of you who were unable to be on the stage with us Saturday or couldn't stay for the announcements of results, the result is.....drum roll.....we placed fourth in the Yankee Division, up a step from last year's Division result. Scorewise, a lot more than what we had done at District in Lake Placid and a little higher than the scores awarded in Manchester at the 2002 Division contest. Overall, a very good outing on that stage and acknowledged as such by the judges at the review session.

Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions, the change of the contest location and lack of access to a decent high-speed copying machine prohibited the distribution of the overall scores and placements of the choruses (like that matters a lot! Doesn't to me). Total results will be posted on the NED site later on today, so they say. I've been trying up until noon with no luck. [Ed. note: This was written on 6 April.]

My congratulations to all of you who did your very best (of course, my opinion) up on that stage yesterday. You have my heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful presentation you gave—and I'm so very pleased to say that. Of course, I could say more and don't worry, I will.

Also kudos to the Danbury chorus who shares Dan Griffin with us. Most improved chorus award is basically what we all are in this for and Danbury earned it!

DIVISION CONTEST RESULTS

For those of our readers who do not share our Director's disdain for the scores of choruses other than the Newyorkers, here are the complete results for the Yankee division chorus contest.

1. Providence, RI Narragansett Bay Chorus	1359 (75.5%)
2. Manchester, CT Silk City Chorus	1140 (63.3%)
3. Central Connecticut Connecticut Yankee Chorus	1119 (62.2%)
4. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY NEWYORKERS	1064 (59.1%)

5. Waterbury/Derby, CT Valley Chordsmen	1051 (58.4%)
6. Danbury, CT Mad Hatters	962 (53.4%)

Central Connecticut was named Small Chorus Champion, and Danbury was named the Most Improved Chorus. Those choruses that scored 975 or more points qualified for the District Chorus Contest, to be held in Saratoga Springs in October.

CARA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 14 April 2003

Three quartets were selected as winners in the Barbershop category of the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards presented by the Contemporary A Cappella Society:

Best Barbershop Album

Winner: Autograph, *After the Lovin'* (Members: Jeff Finney, Alex Rubin, Dan Rubin, and Tom Ball)

Runner-up: The Ritz, *Puttin' on The Ritz* (Members: Jim Shisler, Doug "Nic" Nichol, D.J. Hiner, and Ben Ayling)

Best Barbershop Song

Winner: The Ritz, "No, No, Nora" (from *Puttin' on The Ritz*)

Runner-up: Sound Design (SAI) "Oh, You Beautiful Doll" (from *Peel Me a Grape*) (Members: Carolyn Huber, Katy Sansburn, Sue Beck, and Judy Widener)

To see a complete list of all the CARA winners, go to <http://www.casa.org/>

HARMONY COLLEGE NORTHEAST 2003


By Jim Dodge
NED DVP - Music & Performance
Dean, Harmony College Northeast

As we enter April, you should know that we are wrapping up the final details of Harmony College Northeast for this summer and should be starting registration about the middle of the month. These are the things we can tell you for sure.
(See "Harmony College NE" on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
 Published by the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
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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



2 May First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant
 21 May BOD meeting at church—6 p.m.
 17 May **Annual Chapter Show—8 p.m., F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park**

Happy Birthdays in May (date order):

Dan Driscoll	1
Steve Ross	7
Nancy Murphy	22
Kathy Courtney	26
Dave Reynolds	29
June Pierson	31

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 MAY

Harmony College NE (From Page 1)
 THE DATES: August 8–10, 2003
 THE PLACE: Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, MA
 OUR GUEST QUARTETS: Gas House Gang (1993 International Champs), Freestyle (heir-apparent to FRED as our best comedy quartet), and the Four Rascals (NED's first best quartet). We're hoping to have ALL of our active NED Champion quartets on hand also (that's one of the details!). That means Northeast Connection, Road Show, Overdrive, and Prelude might be on staff too!
 TUITION: Same as last year, \$120 full tuition and \$85 for commuters.

We have some nice surprises for you, but I can't discuss them yet. We do know for certain that we have room for 36 quartets to be coached if we can find enough coaches, and we are in the process of signing them up. We also know that we only have room for 288 because two of the dorms are undergoing renovation. There is a remote chance that we can find a few more beds but, if so, not very many.

So set the dates aside and we'll begin signup in a couple of weeks.

CONVENTION NEWS

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 7 April 2003

WORLD HARMONY JAMBOREE IS BARBERSHOP WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FLAIR
 Looking for a "best of" show? Don't miss the World Harmony Jamboree at the Montréal convention, to be held at 1:30 p.m. on 4 July, in the Bell Centre. This event has gathered momentum every year, and features both gold medal quartets and choruses from (Continued on Page 3)

Convention News (From Page 2)

SPEBSQSA, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony Inc. The fast-moving show also presents the very best from our affiliates overseas. Imagine: Four Voices and A Cappella Gold on the same show with The Masters of Harmony and Toronto North Metro choruses. Like your barbershop with an Asian twist? Then you'll love seeing and hearing The Tokyo Barbers. Like surprises? Well ... we can't tell you everything!

To purchase tickets or to view the show lineup, visit the World Harmony Council web site at www.worldharmonycouncil.org > World Harmony Jamboree. Tickets may also be purchased on the SPEBSQSA web site Special Events page. Each year the proceeds from this event form the lion's share of outreach activities by the World Harmony Council.

THE JOURNEY'S OVER

By Robert A. Chieffo

The Newyorkers "piped" Bob Betscha to that big chorus in the sky on 28 and 29 March. At the viewing on the 28th, enough were there to sing "I Believe" after the priest read some verses and honored Bob. The next day, after the mass, we gathered at the rear of the sanctuary and sang "The Irish Blessing" as they wheeled Bob down the aisle toward us. It was a tough gig. Angela later said she cried because it was so beautiful and fitting. Barbershopping was a very important part of Bob's life. A wonderful way to send him off.

God bless all of us.

SHOW AD LEADERSBy Scott Salladin
Show Ad Chairman

The following men have made an effort to sell ads for this year's annual show program:

Scott Salladin	\$740
Mike Murphy	\$640
Dick Schaffer	\$515
George Trigg	\$500
Joe O'Neill	\$350
Dave Reynolds	\$340
Al Cavalari	\$280
Bill Booth	\$205
John Chisholm	\$205
Jack Tacinelli	\$185
George Sprague	\$160
Lew DiStasi	\$145
Ray Brock	\$140
John Hadigan	\$120
Bill Standish	\$ 80
Bob Hitchcock	\$ 55
Bob Chieffo	\$ 40
Bob Waltke	\$ 20

Renee Silverstein	\$ 20
TOTAL	\$4460

Thank you all for making the show program such a success this year.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR VOICE! (PART 3)

By David Epstein, MD, Wilmington, Del., Chapter
(From the SPEBSQSA web site,
by way of Greater Montréal Chapter's *Mini-Pitch*,
Murray Phillips, Editor)

Last issue, I wrote about things to do every day to keep your voice healthy. Now I want to suggest some ways to protect your voice if you become ill.

- If you catch a cold or other upper respiratory infection, turn on a humidifier or vaporizer, especially during the winter. A stuffy nose will cause you to mouth-breathe, which dries the throat and larynx. Either the steam type or cool-mist type will do. Don't put Vicks or anything else in the water; plain H₂O is most effective.
 - Drink lots of fluids. It sounds a bit gross to say it, but the best indicator is the color of your urine. If it is dark yellow, you need more fluids. You're doing fine if your urine looks like water. (Check with your doctor on this if you have a heart or kidney condition.)
 - Avoid aspirin. It makes bleeding injuries in your vocal cords more likely. Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) are better choices for fever or pain in singers.
 - Avoid antihistamines and decongestants if possible. Most non-prescription cold remedies contain them, but they are too drying for singers. Mucolytic agents that break up mucus, such as Organidin (by prescription) or *plain* Robitussin (over the counter), help liquefy secretions without drying your mucus membranes if you have a cold.
 - Avoid Vitamin C in excessive doses. It has no proven benefit in fighting colds, but it is a mild diuretic and will tend to dry out your body.
 - Pay attention to your general health. Constipation or diarrhea will make your stomach uncomfortable and ruin your support. Chronic allergies cause swelling in the mucous membranes of the larynx; the nasal stuffiness also leads to mouth breathing, causing excessive dryness in the larynx. These and other minor conditions, *if untreated*, will affect your singing.
- If you have hoarseness or cough lasting more than a couple of weeks, see a doctor right away. If he or she can't diagnose the problem, ask for a referral to an Ear-Nose-and-Throat surgeon who specialises in voice problems (not all do). Ask the doctor if you have "chronic reflux," a much under-diagnosed condition in which stomach contents flow up your esophagus while you're asleep and irritate your larynx. You may have reflux if you wake up hoarse or with a sore throat each morning, or cough a lot at night. (Other conditions can also do these things.) (See "Voice" on Page 4)

Voice (From Page 3)

The treatment usually consists of elevating the head of your bed, using antacids, never eating immediately before sleep, and avoiding caffeine, alcohol, and spicy food. I hope you don't have "reflux"—life becomes very dull!

If you have diabetes, take good care of it. The fluid shifts caused by changing blood-sugar levels may give you fluctuating swelling in your vocal cords.

The hints from Dr. Sataloff that I have passed on in these three articles will, I hope, help keep your voice healthy. The four basic principles are:

- Avoid irritants such as alcohol and cigarettes.
- Avoid speaking or singing over noise.
- Use good posture and support while singing *and* speaking.
- Take care of your health.

ANNUAL SHOW TICKETS

By Scott Salladin
Ticket Chairman

SELL, SELL, SELL! Now is the time to really get out to the public and sell our show tickets. Now that the ad campaign has come to an end, now you can concentrate on sell the show tickets. With just a couple of weeks, left the push is really on to make this the best attended show ever. If you need more tickets please feel free to contact Eric Dickstein for tickets. Eric is the in house chairman, and Scott Salladin is the overall ticket chairman. SELL, SELL, SELL!

NYS SPEBSQSA LICENSE PLATES

By Bill Ennis, Manhattan Chapter

I'm Bill Ennis of the Manhattan Chapter in NYC and am working independently on a project to secure, for those who would be interested, NY State license plates embossed with the society logo.

I began with Reed Sampson and the NY State DMV, special plate division. Reed has been very supportive, but advised that those states that have attempted to do so have run into a great deal of difficulty. The DMV in Albany has been very cooperative and forwarded paperwork to me the next day. Cutting to the quick, I want to advise all chapter members in your district of this project and what's involved and seek their support and cooperation in disseminating the info to their members.

The process is very simple. There are two ways of funding this venture. One is to deposit \$5,000 with the DMV and provide the art work, and they will begin the process of producing the template. The second is to submit to the DMV 200 applications each with a \$25 check (the usual fee for special plates); this is the only quantity requirement and we have a year to fulfill it. Again with the art work they will begin to produce the template. Obviously the latter is the best way to go.

Reed has agreed the art work can and will be supplied

by Kenosha. I will take care of giving him all the specifics required by the DMV.

I will also act as the point of contact for all interested members. Reed advised me that the membership rolls indicate approximately 1500 members residing in NY State. 200 respondents certainly seems doable. I prefer to work independently on this project, of course with the cooperation of the chapter presidents. What I need is a listing of the interested gentlemen, in any form you prefer

Thanks in advance for the assistance you will provide.

BOSTON COMMON IN GREENSBORO

By "Oldyorker" Don Bunch

The weekend of 4/5/03 Liz and I made our first visit to Greensboro, NC, about 4 hours east of us, to attend the Greensboro Tarheel Chorus Barbershop show. We were attracted to attend their show because the featured quartet was none other than the infamous "Boston Common". They had wowed us Northeasterners with their terrific blend of four great voices during the 70s, including appearing on the Poughkeepsie New Yorkers' annual show. Unfortunately, shortly after winning the International Championship in 1980 they broke up.

During the past year the original four have got back together and started doing limited appearances. Well, let me tell you, they still sound great after 20 plus years and are still singing many of their old favorites. The blend is still great and they each really enjoy themselves on the stage; and bass Terry Clarke is as funny as ever, as he proved at the Afterglow party.

The "Tarheel Chorus" was entertaining, singing 11 songs with about 30 men on stage. The quartet "Spectacle" amused the audience with "Somewhere Over Weight People," and a mixed quartet "Guys and Dolls" added variety. The chorus director Greg Zinke, who sings a very melodic bass, sang in several of the performing quartets to the envy of all the basses.

We ran into several past New Yorkers that I use to sing with at the show which added to our enjoyment. Attending from the Raleigh area were Bill and Dorothy McFadden, Mike and Joanne Myers and Gerry Anderson.

To broaden our musical weekend we also attended a Barn Dinner theater where we listened to three gals celebrate the women of country music in the show "The Honky Tonk Angels". This show was written by the same author who produced "Always Patsy Cline". A museum and art exhibit rounded out our culture of the weekend.

ROSTER PLUS...

By Bob Chieffo

I'm the Roster guy. Guess that's a little known fact in the Chapter, again. I am using this means to request people to notify Scott and me of changes of address, etc. For those with internet access, they should also (Continued on Page 5)

Roster Plus... (From Page 4)

go online to SPEBSQSA and change their own profile. Also go to the NYers Yahoo e-group and change the data there too.

UNDERSTANDING THE YOUTH POLICY

By Todd Lamson
NED President

Many of you have heard about the Society's adoption of a Youth Policy Statement. This is one of the most important documents for us as members to familiarize ourselves with, as it affects every single one of us in all of the aspects of barbershopping we participate in.

It is important to explain that this is not a "new procedure", nor is it the result of things we have been doing wrong. It is simply the next logical and necessary step to take as we increase our impact on youth in our culture. It is a document which formalizes what we might consider to be, for the most part, common sense and appropriate. It is a document similar to those a great many other youth oriented groups (BSA, schools, etc.) have already adopted. It guides us as we develop new youth programs in how to protect ourselves, and more importantly the young people whose lives we are attempting to enrich.

It is the responsibility of every member to familiarize himself with this document, to consider how it impacts our habits and past practices, and to learn to appreciate the guidance it offers. I suggest that as you read you consider the practical application of these guidelines to our barbershop life. Reword the jargon as best as you can into a conversational language if you need to. You will see that it is not as overwhelming a change of thinking and procedure as it seems. Email me (lamson8@cox.net) with any questions, interpretations, or suggestions you may have that I can answer or pass on to the authors of the document.

NEW MEMBER TERMINOLOGY

... Some of It Useful for Veterans Too

Adapted from an anonymous article
in *The Pitch Pipe*, monthly publication of
Sweet Adelines International
Thanks to Renée Silverstein

Afterglow: Party after a show, performance, or rehearsal.

Bubbling: A vocal exercise used to relax the lips, jaw, and throat, to open resonators, and to produce a resonant sound.

Chest voice: The lower range of the voice, which resonates primarily in the chest, although it includes the upper register.

Chord worship: Reveling in the sound of a ringing chord, usually to the detriment of forward motion and entertainment of the audience.

Diphthong: Two vowel sounds sung on one note, with greater stress on the first of the two; e. g., the vowel in

"day" is actually "eh" followed by "ee."

Doubling: Two parts on the same note—sometimes incorrect when one part is singing a wrong note that is the same note that is sung by another part, but sometimes correct when it is written as the same note sung in unison by two parts. Also used to refer to two notes an octave apart sung by different parts.

Dynamic contrast: Planned volume changes to enhance the performance of a song.

Forward motion: Sense of lyrical flow, with vocal line movement toward something in anticipation, especially in a ballad.

Head voice: The upper range of the voice, which resonates primarily in the head.

Inside smile: Lifting of the soft palate.

Interval: The distance between two notes.

Intro: A musical phrase or sentence sung before the body of the song.

Key: Letter name of the note corresponding to "do" of the scale in which a song is written. This note is blown on the pitch pipe.

Lifted phrase ending: Keeping the tone fully supported and energized to the end of the phrase, so as not to let it just die out. Calls for control of breath so as to have enough air at the end.

Mask: The facial muscles under the eyes into the temple, around the nose, in the lip area, and from the temples down to the chin.

Octave: The interval of an 8th, with the lower and upper notes having the same letter name.

Off the paper: Being able to sing your part without using sheet music.

Onion skins: The small tuning adjustments needed for locking a chord. Layman's term for the degree of tuning sound vibrations.

Overtone: Unsung note heard above the highest tone of a properly voiced and matched chord. Also, one of the frequencies produced by a vibrating string, air column, membrane, or plate higher than that of the fundamental note.

Phonation: The uttering of vocal sounds; vocalization.

Physical warm-up: Procedures for warming up the body to provide a suitable environment for the singing mechanism to operate, and to release tension that would interfere with vocal freedom. Compare **vocal warm-up**.

Pick-up: A note or series of notes, usually constituting an incomplete measure, leading into the first full chord of a phrase.

Quartet etiquette: Displaying courtesy by not singing along with a foursome that is singing, unless you are asked to join in.

Resonators: Any of the cavities or parts of the vocal tract that serve to reinforce and enrich the phonated tones of the singing voice.

Ringling chords: The production of audible overtones when a barbershop chord is perfectly balanced and in tune, resulting in an (See "Terminology" on Page 6)

Terminology (From Page 5)

exciting “ringing” sound.

Sneak breathing: Taking a quick breath in other than a planned breathing place so as not to run out of air before the end of the phrase. This is done by leaving out a word or syllable, or breathing in the course of a held vowel. It is *not* done between words, which causes phrases to be out of synch. In any case, it requires smooth dropping out and, especially, reentering.

Soft palate: The soft, squishy area on the roof of the mouth near the back (behind the hard palate).

Swipe: A slide from one note to another, sung on one word or syllable, which creates harmonic tension followed by resolution.

Tag: The section at the end of a song that has been added by the arranger to give a sense of completeness. It is the barbershop equivalent of a coda. Often so composed and arranged as to be singable as an entity in itself.

Tuning: Staying both “in key” and “on pitch.”

Unison: Two or more parts singing the same note.

Vibrato: A wavering in the vocal tone that keeps chords from locking and ringing. In solo singing, it is sometimes regarded as desirable, but can easily be overdone.

Vocal warm-up: Getting the voice ready to sing and the ears listening to others. Compare **physical warm-up**.

Woodshedding: The art of singing barbershop harmony “by ear” without a written musical arrangement.

FALL AND WINTER CRUISES ANNOUNCED

By Harmony Travel

Harmony Travel is excited to announce a special SPEBSQSA Fund-Raising Cruise from Carnival Cruise lines. This week-long Thanksgiving Cruise will depart from Miami on Sunday, 23 November, and return Sunday, 30 November, on Carnival's Victory Cruise ship. Ports of call are Cozumel, Grand Cayman, and Ocho Rios. As a special bonus for Harmony Travel patrons, Carnival will make a special contribution to SPEBSQSA. If you want the cabin of our choice, you must reserve early.

Join your friends and their families of the Barbershop Society on this exciting Thanksgiving Cruise. Prices start at \$540.00 plus taxes and other fees. Go to www.harmony-travel.com for more information, or call Travel-Ex, a Harmony Travel partner, toll-free at 1-866-QUAR-TET.

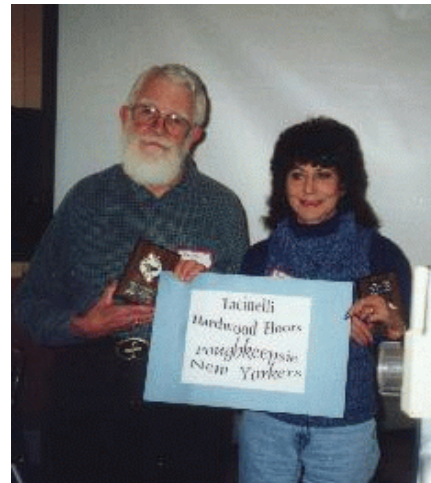
MIDWINTER CONVENTION CRUISE

If you plan to attend the MidWinter Convention in Biloxi, Harmony Travel has a special Carnival Cruise after the convention from New Orleans, and once again, Carnival will make a special contribution to SPEBSQSA for every Barbershopper making the trip. Join the 2003 Seniors Quartet Champions THE BARONS and other barbershoppers on an exciting Post Convention Cruise via Carnival's

new Mega Fun ship, the Conquest, leaving New Orleans on 1 February and returning to New Orleans on 8 February 2004. If you attend the MidWinter Convention in Biloxi, we will transfer you to New Orleans. Ports of Call include Montego Bay, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel. Prices start at \$560.00 plus taxes and other fees. Go to www.harmony-travel.com for more information, or call Travel-Ex, a Harmony Travel partner, toll-free at 1-866-QUAR-TET.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS

This picture shows the Newyorkers' winning team in the Spelling Bee held by Literacy Volunteers of America-Dutchess County on 19 March. Renée Silverstein and George Trigg are holding between them the sign identifying their team, which they were required to hold up each time they were called on to spell a word, while George is holding one of the two identical plaques that were awarded to them.



The picture became available only during the last week of April, which is why it was not published with the article on the Bee in the April issue.

CURRENT REPERTOIRE

By The Music Team

Following is a list of the current repertoire. It is divided into two categories. The A list comprises songs that are regarded as most important; the B list consists of songs that we sing only occasionally or have not yet learned. We ask that any sheet music not included in this list be returned to the Music Librarian, Dave Reynolds.

A List

Basin Street Blues
Georgia on My Mind
Hello, Mary Lou
I Love That Old Barbershop Style
I'll Be Seeing You
I'm Beginning to See the Light (See "Repertoire" on Page 7)

Repertoire *(From Page 6)*

Lazy River
Oh, How I Miss You Tonight
Old St. Louie
Sittin' on Top of the World
Swanee (to be relearned)
Sweet Adeline

B List

Be a Clown (to be learned)
Bright Was the Night (to be learned)
Down Our Way (Pole Cat)
God Bless America
Golden Oldies medley (to be learned)
Heart of My Heart (Pole Cat)
I Believe
I Love You Truly
I Really Don't Want to Know

Irish Blessing
Keep the Whole World Singing
Let Me Call You Sweetheart (Pole Cat)
My Wild Irish Rose (Pole Cat)
Shine on Me (Pole Cat)
Star Spangled Banner
Sing Me That Song Again
Sweet and Lovely (Pole Cat)
Take Me Out to the Ball Game
Teach the Children to Sing
That Old Black Magic
This Little Light of Mine/Do Lord medley
You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby
You're as Welcome as the Flowers in May

Tags**Christmas Selections**

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

The Newyorker Times
18 Duzine Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1304