

The Newyorker Times

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



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All Aboard: HarmonyFest 2005

Continuing the celebration of youth in music!

By Bill Standish, HarmonyFest 2005 Chairman

CLEAR YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BEST BARBERSHOP EXPERIENCE!

This is the last chance to get the message out to all of you about the IMPORTANCE of our annual youth barbershop festival. The continued growth of our chapter, our district, and our international membership register depends on these handfuls of festivals and youth quartet contests that a few chapters manage to put together across the United States. Poughkeepsie is among the few that take the time, talent, and love of barbershop propagation to host and promote our wonderful hobby to the younger generation.

The date is 29 October at Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with vocal clinics for high school and college students throughout New York State, culminating in an evening performance including student choruses and guest quartets. The show ends with all barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines joining voices to present "Teach the Children to Sing." You have to be there to enjoy the show, and participate in the finale. This is also a major chapter event so your help is needed both before the event and during the day and evening portions of the festival. Please look at the list below and step forward to assume one of the roles. None of these jobs is difficult, but they do take a little time and planning. If two of you get together to work on one area, all the better. I have announced the need for members to assume a job responsibility in the last Newyorker Times, and twice during our business meetings at chapter. Sad to say, no one has called or e-mailed to ask what any of the jobs entail. I have all the details laid out for each one, so the tasks are mostly just some grunt work. Again, try the buddy system where two members work on one area. But PLEASE help me out by taking some of these items off my shoulders so I can concentrate on signing up the students, mailing music and tapes and overseeing the main functions of the entire day.

The most immediate task is to get 6-8 people to fold

and stuff flyers for mailing. This should be done now so that timely notice can be given to the public regarding ticket sales. People don't just show up at the door; in fact only about 20% of ticket sales occur at the door. The major portion is advance sale.

LET'S GET THE BEST TURNOUT WE CAN FOR THIS. The students would love to sing to a sell-out crowd. In anticipation of hearing from all of you, I thank you in advance for taking a leadership role for the festival.

SING...for life!!!

Festival Committees:

- > Bulletin Chairman: easy—we only need a 5-page bulletin (hand-bill style) and ad sales for patrons only
- > Hotel reservations for quartets and clinicians
- > Half-time raffle items/run raffle at half-time
- > Donations of bottled water and apples
- > Ticket sales at the door and ushers
- > Stage assistant to Ron Pierson
- > Corporate Sponsorships: letters to Dutchess County businesses, seeking financial backing
- > Ticket Printing and Sponsorship
- > Printing & Mailing of Flyers (use chapter mailing labels)

To sign up, call me at

Bill Standish

496-3467

Standish@frontiernet.net

2006 Convention Features More Choruses Than Ever Before

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*,
23 September

Your opinions count—and the 2006 convention in Indy will reflect your desire for more participation, more singing, and more fun.

Based in part on the results of a convention participation survey conducted last fall, the Society Board has opened the Indianapolis 2006 chorus contest to a whopping 30 choruses in the Big Show—the most we've ever put on the contest stage. Invited to the contest:

16 District Chorus (See "Convention" on Page 2)

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 Yankee Division, Northeastern District
 Editor: George L. Trigg,
 18 Duzine Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1304
 845-255-9488; e-mail GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu

Chapter Officials

President Eric Dickstein
 845-395-3577; erictd@hvc.rr.com

VP, Chapter Development Bob Hitchcock
 845-298-2728; Clownworld@aol.com

VP, Music & Performance Steve Hagerdon

VP, PR & Marketing Tom Koman
 845-462-6192; kfam5@hvi.net

Secretary Scott Salladin

Treasurer Mike Murphy

BOD Members at Large Steve Miller
 Jack Tacinelli
 Rudy Veltre


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



29 Oct HarmonyFest 2005, F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park—8 a.m. -9 p.m.

16 Nov New Yorkers performance, The Fountains at Millbrook—6:30 p.m. arrival for 7:00 p.m. performance; uniform tba

20 Nov New Yorkers performance, Poughkeepsie Reformed Church—2:30 p.m. arrival for 3:00 p.m. performance; uniform full tux

Dec 11 Harmony for Hospice, Poughkeepsie Galleria—4 p. m.

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 October:

Bill Booth	8
Dave Maurer	15
Frank Ruggiero	15
Bob Chieffo	20
Nancy Rand	22
John Haverkamp	24
Joan Ross	25
Rudy Veltre	31

Happy Anniversaries in October:

Bob and Diane Chieffo	26
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Best wishes for full recovery:

Ray Brock
 Vic Salladin

Convention (From Page 1)

Representatives
 2 choruses representing affiliate organizations
 12 at-large choruses from the pool of the top-scoring choruses that accept the invitation to compete.

That means that every fall district convention this fall has implications beyond winning the international chorus preliminary. Twelve at-large slots are up for grabs, too, and the race goes to the finest.

New schedule to fit in the new events

"The ears can absorb what the bottom can tolerate," quoth the judges, and most audience members will agree. To accommodate seven hours of chorus contest, the event will be split into two sessions on Friday, July 7. The college contest moves to Saturday, so still more singers will be able to see this increasingly popular event. The full week looks like this: (Continued on Page 3)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
29 SEPTEMBER

Convention (From Page 2)

Tuesday July 4	Harmony Foundation presents...
Wednesday July 5	Quartet Quarter-Finals (two rounds)
Thursday July 6	Quartet Semi-Finals (Top Twenty) AIC Show
Friday July 7	Chorus finals (two sessions)
Saturday July 8	College contest World Harmony Jamboree Quartet Finals

Every year a new adventure—a new way for members to experience the thrill of competing in the international chorus contest, and to see the best that barbershop has to offer.

Old Age Is a Gift

Anonymous

Forwarded to the Editor by an acquaintance

Old age, I have decided, is a gift.

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be.

Oh, not my body! I sometimes despair over my body—the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror. But I don't agonize over those things for long. I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly.

As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant-garde on my patio. I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon, before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 a.m., and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love ... I will. I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the bikini set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten—and I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when a beloved pet gets hit by

a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

I can say "no," and mean it. I can say "yes," and mean it. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be.

And I shall eat dessert every single day.

Board Approves Discounted Dues For All Students

Rate adjusted to reflect realities of
today's world of higher education

From the Society's *LiveWire Newsletter*, 31 August

Recognizing that men today seeking advanced degrees are less likely to be traditional four-year students, the Society Board recently enacted a change in dues structures, removing the limitation on student dues to men under age 23. Henceforth, a student member is defined as a full-time student as of current expiration date.

How the Champions Do It

Extracted from an article by Bob Bradley,
President, Danbury Chapter,
appearing in Danbury's *Hatter Chatter*,
Bob Bartley, Editor

There is so much to learn in vocal music that you could go to Harmony College for 20 years, and find that each year you learn something new, or get a new insight on your voice and the theories of harmony. There is also the chance to interact with one or more members of a quartet that has won the international gold.

This is the most interesting part of the weekend. You can hear what these guys go through, and see the dedication that they have to a hobby. As always, singing well comes down to doing the small things well.

Almost without fail, the things that make us sing better are matching vowels, singing the proper words and notes, and balancing chords. The quartet Power Play goes through a song chord by chord, note by note until they have it right. They keep a small repertoire and keep the music short and simple. It does (See "*Champions*" on Page 4)

Champions (From Page 3)

not sound that way when they sing. They are well versed in basics and work on them all the time.

To improve as a chorus we have to do the same things that the big guys do. It is the stuff that we don't like to do: drill on the basics, drill on the basics, over and over and over and over again. The results are clear and can be seen in any of the quartets who sang for us over the weekend.

To get an understanding of the hobby on the higher levels, everyone should, at one time or another, make a trip to Harmony College. For us all it is worth the effort and opens up a new world of music.

Controversial Performances at Salt Lake City

A few thoughts on recent performances

By Richard Treptow

Presentation Category Specialist

From the Society's newsletter *LiveWire*,

23 September

Many of our members have expressed curiosity about whether some of the Salt Lake City performances may have violated rules of the contest regarding taste, appropriateness, and the length of non-singing comment. Since these are all areas adjudicated by the Presentation ("PRS") Category, as PRS Category Specialist I would like to take the opportunity to address these issues.

Although there were no flagrant acts of "poor taste"

that required penalty, there definitely were some performances that entered a gray area of "appropriateness," requiring judgment calls regarding whether a penalty should be applied. In fact, the PRS judges were split on several of these issues, with some of the panel members levying penalties while others did not for the same events. The penalty guidelines indicate that penalties should clearly be applied if the violations are also clear. But if the violations are not clear, each PRS judge makes a judgment call. For example, if the audience is split on a taste issue (as they were in Salt Lake City), it's likely the judges also will be split, because PRS judges both reflect and represent the audience.

The length of non-singing comment for some performances also entered a gray area. Some panel members felt they had exceeded "brief," and therefore levied a penalty, whereas others felt they indeed had gone up to, but stopped just short of, the line. Some in the audience felt the talking was too long; while others did not, so the judges again reflected the audience.

The contest and judging system allows contestants to take risks, and potentially enjoy rewards, or at times suffer penalties, just as they did in SLC. Over the years, the risk/reward nature of the contest rules has provided some of our most exciting and controversial performances. Examples are TNT's Les Mis package, FRED's 1/4 minute entrance before singing a note, the Swedes tromping through the judging area, and the Brits stereotyping and insulting all mothers-in-law. Especially when a performance enters a gray area, most of us enjoy becoming armchair judges and Monday morning quarterbacks. It's fun, isn't it? But hey, those guys down front do a good job for all of us.

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

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New Paltz, NY 12561-1304

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