

# The Newyorker Times

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



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## *From the President's Desk* *By John Hadigan*

Well, here I am, entering the fourth quarter of my year as president of the chapter and I'm finally submitting an article for the newsletter! My apologies go to George Trigg for not writing something sooner. He has done a fine job with this publication and we as a chapter should be proud.

As I reflect on the past nine months, I realize that this has been quite a successful year to this point. I've found my job to be a much better journey than I thought it might be, and the reason for this is very simple. You, the membership, have stepped up and contributed to our success every step of the way! From Singing Valentines and the Division Contest to the annual show and the summer performances, the "can do" attitude you have shown has made my job an enjoyable one. Whenever I've asked anyone to take on a task, I was never turned down. I can't thank you all enough!

From the musical side of things, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our director, Renée. She has given me, as an assistant director, numerous opportunities to stand in front of the chorus both to coach and to direct. She's also allowed me to coach her, too. It takes a great deal of trust for a director to open the door like that for an assistant. Not many directors in our society are willing to "share" their choruses in such a way. By doing so, she has given me the chance to grow, and I greatly appreciate all she has done!

Finally, I'm looking forward to being on the district contest stage with the chorus and showing the audience what the Newyorkers are all about. Let's all have a great time in Providence!



## *The Quartet Corner*

THE FOOTLIGHTERS  
by Bob Chieffo

The Footlighters are alive and kickin'! Summer rehearsals were few with Chief out for about 6 weeks. But we're catching up now. While trying to keep the rep up, we're working on two new Christmas songs and two others. We have a 50th Wedding Anniversary performance in December and a January 101st birthday party. So... "if the Force be willin' and the creek don't rise" we'll keep on singin' during this Footlighters 31st anniversary year.

## **Song of the Valley Show Coming on 5 November**

Adapted from a flyer

The Song of the Valley chorus of Sweet Adelines International will present its show "Thank You for the Music" at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 5 November, in the Monroe-Woodbury Middle School, 199 Dunderberg Road, Central Valley. In addition to the chorus itself, under the direction of Lisbet Kline, featured attractions will be James Krueger, "the John Denver of the Catskills"; soloist Nancy Mendolia; and the Newyorkers' own quartet, Swing Shift. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors and students. For tickets or additional information, call Bonnie at 845-496-7573. Web page:

[www.SongoftheValleyChorus.homestead.com](http://www.SongoftheValleyChorus.homestead.com)

## **Housing for Fall Contest**

By M. Rodrigues  
Convention Co-Chairman

Friends and NED Competitors, come join us for NED's 60th Anniversary Celebration here in Providence. This is being sent to all NED members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The contest fast approaches: 27-29 October, a little more than a month away; and as (See "Housing" on Page 3)

**The New Yorker Times**

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Editor: George L. Trigg,  
18 Duzine Road, New Paltz, NY 12561-1304  
845-255-9488; e-mail [GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu](mailto:GeorgeL.Trigg@alum.wustl.edu)

**Chapter Officials**

- President . . . . . John Hadigan, Jr.  
845-485-2339; e-mail bigjohnbass1@aol.com
- VP, Chapter Development . . . . . Bob Hitchcock  
845-298-2728; e-mail Clownworld@aol.com
- VP, Music & Performance . . . . . Steve Hagerdon
- VP, PR & Marketing . . . . . Joe O'Neill  
845-229-9756; e-mail joekev2@aol.com
- Secretary . . . . . Scott Salladin
- Treasurer . . . . . Mike Murphy
- BOD Members at Large . . . . . Bill Florie  
Steve Miller  
Dick Schaffer
- Immediate Past President . . . . . Eric Dickstein
- 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](http://www.newyorkerschorus.org)

**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



21 Oct Performance at Castle Point VA Medical Center—arrive 9:30 a.m., perform 10:30 a.m.

27,28 Oct **NE District Convention, Providence, RI**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE  
25 OCTOBER**

**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:**

Bill and Linda Standish	9
Eric and Suzanne Bram	16

*Directions*

*by Renée Silverstein*

**ON BEING A DIRECTOR**

One of the major functions of a director is to interpret a song without trying to change what the composer intended. It is always about the song and the music. The music comes from the heart and you, the chorus, are the voice. Learning the correct notes and words is your responsibility and then you have to “buy into” my interpretation. On any sing-through, things may be a bit different, for if it were to be repeated exactly the same each time you would not enjoy it. I am not robotic and neither are you. I do not expect you to follow me mindlessly, because you are musicians, not instruments. Major parts will always be done consistently but the length of a note here or there could change. You need to be prepared for this to happen during performances. The interpretation has to be shared, first between the director and the musicians and then with the audience. We are human with changing emotions and moods, as is our audience. It is not so much about us, how *we* feel, what *we* get out of it. It is my feeling that the audience is more important—what are (See “Directions” on Page 3)

**Directions** *(From Page 2)*

they getting out of our singing? If we sing the best that we can every time we sing we all benefit.

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## Singing In Tune (Part I)

By Fred King, International coach  
From the PROBE web site, by way of  
Lake County (IN) Chapter's *Chorus of the Dunes*,  
Alvin W. Ries, Editor

Perhaps one of the biggest problems faced by coaches is the quartet or chorus which continually or even occasionally sings out of tune. It is interesting to note that Brahms gave up directing a choral group of ladies at Hamburg, Germany, because they could not stay on pitch. This article will not attempt to deal with sharp singing. Even though sharp singing is an occasional problem, the overwhelming preponderance of tuning problems has to do with flattening.

Actually, there are two kinds of flattening problems. The first is where the voice parts stay in tune with each other, but the entire quartet or chorus flats uniformly from the starting pitch. The second is where the voice parts sing out of tune with one another as well as flattening the given pitch. What are some of the reasons singers tend to sing flat, and what can the coach do about them?

First of all, many singers fail to start on pitch. This is due to lack of attention. Each singer must learn to hear the correct pitch before he attempts to sing it. It is very important for the singers to learn to listen to each other. The greatest degree of pitch accuracy occurs when a singer develops a concept of the way his voice sounds to others, because then it is possible to tell when he is singing out of tune.

Once the quartet starts on pitch, insist that each mem-

ber energize himself. Listless body attitudes will cause flattening. Correct posture is essential, but not enough. There is a vast difference between erect and alert. The singers must have a good mental attitude and look happy in order to sing in tune. If the quartet consistently flats, try raising the pitch one-half step or even a whole step. The added energy required to produce their voices may keep them on pitch.

(To be continued.)

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**Housing** *(From Page 2)*

Fall cools us down, our competition heats up. This contest has LOTS of competitors and lots of fun, lots of friends to meet again, lots of tags to sing. Come on in!

We have arranged for affordable housing for you as well, so come on down and stay the weekend. Extend it a bit more and enjoy Newport, Fall on Cape Cod, a day in Boston, or a stroll through Foxwoods.

But the Group Rates in the Hotels are running out in a couple of weeks, and there are some other big events here in Providence that weekend. If you want to take advantage of the Group Rates, you need to act NOW. Call the hotel/motel of your choice. The Web site lists quite a few, most of them within walking distance of each other, and just 2 miles from East Providence High, where the contest will be held. Check out

[http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=80&subpage\\_of=62](http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=80&subpage_of=62)

where you will find directions and maps and telephone numbers.

Speaking of East Providence High, you have to see it to believe it. The stage is the largest in the state. The lobby sparkles with shiny marble and glitz. There is lots of parking on site. And everything you need is on one floor, so it is handicap accessible.

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

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