

BARBERSHOP POINTERS

Stevens Point, Wisconsin chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

Meeting every Monday 7:30 P.M.

Harmony House – 3500 Harmony Lane

P.O. Box 482 – 715-344-9052

Issue 4 – September 2007



Fellow Members:

As summer nears its end, I hope that each of you has enjoyed the breath of fresh air that always seems to accompany this time of year. As fall approaches, similarly, we are able to enjoy a climate and colorful surroundings not shared by many other states in our country. Take that extra moment in your busy schedule to observe the continuing movement of nature and it's moods as we once again prepare to "settle in" for the winter months ahead.

We have quite a busy fall schedule ahead of us in the next two months. It is rather short lived, however. Once our show and contest commitment ends, we will have time to ponder our success and our goals for next year. Until then, I ask that each of you "renew" your personal goals and commitments towards becoming a better singer and contributor to the Northern Gateway Chorus. This has been a year of change and excitement brought about because of change. You all have met the challenge and for the next two months, I ask that each of you to "step up to the plate" and swing for that "extra base hit". We have hit an awful lot of "singles during the year and now we need some "home runs". We have the team which can finish our season successfully. Are you going to strike out, get on base or hit the "long one" for the team? Let's go get 'em for both the show and contest. Sell those tickets so that our community sees us in action and realizes how hard we work during the year. - Gary

Thinking Ahead

Editor's Note: I picked this out of the emails floating back and forth among members of Heart Of Harmony chorus a few months ago. It was put forth by one of their outstanding leads, Justin Fermeich. Everything he says applies as much today as it did back then.

My HOH comrades, Minneapolis scored an average score of 81.5 tonight in Denver. That is less than NINE POINTS over what we scored at division, and they had almost THREE TIMES the men on stage as us (148 total).

District is a little over 3 months away right now. Can we devote ourselves to a 4 point per month improvement in our performance?

When was the last time you sang "all alone" to yourself in the mirror?

Over our extended break did you look at "Heart" and can you commit to being 100% off of the sheet music this coming Tuesday?

Our success at contest isn't only how well we sing 2 songs. It's how well we perform ALL of our music. We use the same instrument to sing "My Wild Irish Rose" as we do to sing "All Alone", our voice.

I know I'm getting long winded, but I realized today after hearing the choruses singing on the international stage, us performing in Nashville in 2008 isn't some far fetched dream, it isn't even a stretch of the imagination. This is well within our grasp & our moment is now.

The perennial international contenders of The Great Northern Union are not competing at district this year. Many of the other choruses in the region are losing key members because of the society's move to Nashville. The planets are aligning....are you ready to strike this iron while it's hot?

I am....I hope you will join me.

Justin

On The Road Again!

Submitted by Bill Goerman

Here's a salute to all of you Stevens Point Barbershoppers, who attended the Sing-out at the Clearwater Harbor Bar and Restaurant in Waupaca on Monday, August 16th. We had a great turnout of chorus members to put on stage. We sang a nice variety of songs, which were well received by the full house of friends and families and vacationers. The crowd enjoyed every moment of the show and gave a standing ovation for the final "I am Proud to be an American" song.

When the stage performance concluded, the men continued singing in the bar area and outside on the deck for several more hours, much to the delight of patrons young and old.

The proprietors of the bar, Pat Meighan and his daughters, Maureen and Caitlain, had eagerly awaited our return since last summer. They publicized the event with ads in the local newspaper and on WDUX radio. They generously provided complimentary beverages for the chorus to show their appreciation for our performance.

We are indeed fortunate to have such a nice venue with owners who really appreciate the barbershop style. It provided us with a fun evening of singing and camaraderie.

Attention

This is not really a story about attention. This is a story about this one girl in the front row. Let me explain.

One of my other classical singing groups shared a performing stage -- well, actually a church sanctuary -- with the Bel Canto Girl's Choir of Appleton a couple of years ago. Bel Canto is a very good singing group of high school girls.

We had a chance to warm up and get to know the stage before the audience came in. Our group was all there first, so we took the stage, did our thing, and hung out in the pews to listen to Bel Canto.

The girls shuffled in, talking amongst themselves, kind of bouncing off the pews and walls, in general behaving like you might expect thirty or forty high school girls to do. There was this one girl in the front row that looked like my daughter, if my daughter was still fourteen and acted like a giddy airhead with punked up spiky pink and blue hair. Her eyes were kind of vacant and dull. I looked around at the other girls and saw a lot of deer looking into a lot of headlights. I wondered what kind of performance we were going to get from them.

But then their director stepped to the front and raised her hand.

It was amazing. Everyone stopped talking. Every eye in the choir was focused on her. Even the pink and blue haired girl in the front row looked to her director, and I swear she grew four inches in height as she stood up straight and strong and capable. She turned into a completely different person. A light came into her eyes, and all the other girls' eyes as well. The deer were gone, and the girls were shining and focused as they launched into their first piece. And boy, were they good.

Ever since then I've tried to emulate them. No matter how I feel before we start, when it's time to sing I think about the marvelous change that came over the Bel Canto singers and try to make that same change happen in myself. I'm not perfect at it, but it's a good goal to reach for.

Sure, they all paid attention to the director, but it was more than attention. They reached into themselves and pulled out their best. They made themselves look and behave like the excellent singers and

performers they were.

So, the next time we're starting a song, search inside yourself. Reach around and find that great performer that's hiding in there and grab him out. Turn on his lights like the girls turned on theirs. Put him on display and let him shine for a song or two. I bet you find it feels great to be him, even for just a few minutes. I bet you end up singing better too.

Joe Larson

Quartets in the News

July 17, 2007 found Regal Blend singing the National Anthem for the Wausau Woodchucks game played at Bukholt Park in Stevens Point. Andy Ruplinger was busy with Topper's Pizza and Matt Janzen stood in as tenor. Matt was a quick study and learned his part in about two weeks, doing a right fine job.

The real surprise came when the quartet was asked to do God Bless America at the sixth inning. Not having a real good handle on God Bless America, the crowd had to settle for America The Beautiful, which Matt learned in about a half an hour. Good job Matt. (Actually, we let him read it, but a good job none-the-less)

Regal Blend was also represented at the Poor Man's International at DunRomin Campground just south of Caledonia, Minnesota in mid July. Again, Andy was unable to make this event but with yet another stand in appearance by Jim Olson, the quartet sang a couple mutually known songs to the delight of 60 plus campers assembled for the event.

Say, has anyone seen Andy?



**COME ON ALONG AND BE PART OF THE GROUP!
DON'T BE BASHFUL - SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE!**