

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

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Packerland Division – Land O Lakes District



Northern Gateway Chorus Selects New Director



The Director Search Committee held a final meeting on March 16, 2008 to review and discuss three possibilities as the future director of the Northern Gateway Chorus.

After a two month effort which included interviews, phone calls, auditions and numerous meetings, the search committee came to a decision after much discussion. As a member of that committee, this writer is somewhat astonished

that the process could reach fruition in such a short period of time. The diligence of the committee can be credited to the speed with which this task was accomplished.

As indicated, discussion was thorough and many factors were weighed regarding each candidate's ability, compatibility and skills. Great consideration was given to what was good for the chapter's future health as well.

All things considered, the committee went to the Chapter Board of Directors in an emergency session prior to rehearsal on St. Patrick's Day with the recommendation that an offer be made to Kevin Morrissey for the position of chorus director. The board considered said proposal and unanimously voted in favor of the proposal.

First Contest of 2008

In a bold move by assistant director **Pat Rydberg**, a pick up quartet 'contest' was scheduled during the second of half of our St. Patrick's Day rehearsal.

This came about during the special board meeting held, as mentioned previously, for the purpose of acquiring a new director. Once the director issue was voted on, Kevin was contacted and in turn managed to make an appearance during the contest portion of our rehearsal. He even jumped into the fray by singing tenor to *Rose of Tralee* along with **Nate Peplinski, John Lay** and **Dave Peplinski**.

This event produced eleven different quartets restricted to singing Irish songs. Song selection included the aforementioned *Rose of Tralee*, *It Was the Same Old Shillelagh*, *Irish Lullaby*, *Irish Blessing* and the ever popular *My Wild Irish Rose*. It was really quite impressive and a lot of guys shed whatever fear they may have had and just did it.

Compliments to all involved.

Additional Funds Come In For The Uniform Fund

Recently, we held yet another fund raiser utilizing Pampered Chef as a vehicle. This time the event was held at Harmony House and features some good food to go along with the process. There were about 15 people in attendance and we managed to raise 392 more dollars for the uniform fund.

The actual fund raising portion netted \$335 and our host donated cash collected to fund the groceries involved in the amount of \$57. Special thanks to all who attended and when you see Amanda at our next fall show, be sure to thank her for giving us this chance to advance our uniform program.



Pampered Chef Representative, Amanda Bell, prepares a dessert treat for those in attendance.



Those in attendance.



So, how many guys are in your quartet?



Singing for Life Blood Drive.

Just a short note to let everyone know about our nationally supported, Singing for Life Blood Drive to be held on May 10th here in Stevens Point. It will be held right at our club house from **8 a.m. until 1 p.m.** So far over 120 chapters nationwide have committed to participation.

Back about 26 years ago, I had a daughter born with a serious heart defect. She was premature as well, and before she was 4 years old she underwent 3 cardiac catheterizations, and 2 open heart surgeries. Prior to that time I was ignorant as to the value of giving blood. My Mom organized a blood drive in my daughter's honor, and got a total of 26 pints of blood donated. I thought that was such a selfless and wonderful act from someone who couldn't be there for the surgeries, but wanted to contribute in her own way.

My daughter only used about 1/2 pint with each surgery but what I learned was the tremendous need and value of that which cannot be artificially created or "bought".

I also learned that I have what is known in the "Vampire Industry" (ha-ha) as "Red Gold" or O-negative blood type. While many of us have different blood types, only O-Negative is the universal blood type that can be received by anyone needing blood. Discovering that, I became a blood donor, and although I don't keep strict

count I have given literally gallons of my blood since then. We often don't get to see the actual results of our efforts, but the blood centers can attest to the fact that whenever there is any type of emergency where many people are injured, our blood is needed.

Now about the BHS involvement. We have the opportunity to get some excellent exposure in the community by participating in this event. We might even get some new members. I envision that we will have one or more quartets on hand to serenade the donors after they give. I can also see perhaps a quartet standing out on the street making music, and attracting attention. The possibilities are wide open for us here.

What we need you to do is to sign up as a donor if you are able, and get as many family members and co-workers to sing (oops, sign) up as well.

By the way, my daughter is still alive and well today because of that blood that she so desperately needed.



-submitted by John White



Did You Know?

Pitch can be directly mapped through the human brain.

For example, if electrodes are placed in your visual cortex (that part of the brain at the back of the head, concerned with seeing), and then showed you a red tomato, there is no group of neurons that will cause the electrodes to turn red. But if Electrodes were placed in your auditory cortex and a pure tone were played in your ears at 440 Hz, there are neurons in your auditory cortex that will fire at precisely that frequency, causing the electrode to emit electrical activity at 440 Hz. Regarding pitch, what goes into the ear comes out of the brain.

From [This Is Your Brain On Music](#) by Daniel J. Levitin

A Regal Valentines Day



Valentines Day 2008 wasn't quite what Regal Blend had hoped for. It started out with that 8 or 10 inches of snow that seemed rather threatening during the prediction phase but didn't seem so bad once it was on the ground. It slowed us a bit but our schedule was light compared to other years.

Because of the light schedule, we spent some of our time being ambassadors of good will for the Northern Gateway Chorus by singing for Jan Weisenbeck's choral group and various other people throughout the day.

Perhaps the most touching being an elderly lady named Lenice at the hospital who just happened to have a birthday that day. We sang Happy Birthday with a segue into My Best To You. She was all smiles during that brief performance and we had most of the staff in tears. As Jim Henry put it in his address an last years International Convention, this isn't just a hobby, it's a ministry.

Gentlemen, this is Lenice:



The Land O Lakes spring prelims are sponsored by the La Crosse chapter this year. Be sure to get your reservation in by April 2 to get a better rate. While we, as a chapter, do not generally need to go to this event, I encourage you to consider it. It's a great chance to see some really good quartets as they prepare for International this coming July.

What Do you Do With An Audience?



-Submitted by Joe Larson

Now that you caught your audience, what do you do with it?

One of the exciting and riveting things about deer hunting happens on the occasional year when I actually shoot one, right afterwards. There I am, standing next to a still-warm recently-deceased hundred-plus pound animal, thinking to myself: "Okay, now that I got it, what do I do with it?" Well of course, the answer is "field dressing," the details of which I won't go into here. Suffice it to say that field dressing is borderline dangerous and claims all my attention, since I don't do it all that often and it involves sharp knives.

But here's something else I've been thinking of, off and on. My wife thinks I'm off the wall, but I think it's an interesting thing to think about: When you have the audience in the palm of your hand, what do you do with them?

There they are, all dozen people, or two hundred, or a thousand or more. You are singing to them, and you come to a dramatic part of the song, a place where you stop and -- what comes next? They're all watching and listening to you, waiting to hear what comes next. They are hanging on your every word, your every move. You can feel the energy coiled up, waiting. For me, its part of the joy I get from performing.

But now that you have them, and you have brought them to this climax, what do you do with them?

I doubt there is a single right answer. There could be a different answer for every song. But I think this is something a quartet or a chorus needs to agree on. If you don't, you risk leaving the audience unsatisfied: don't bring them to a climax just to let them down.

Here are some of the answers I have so far.

You give them an emotionally satisfying resolution to the climax, that's what you do.

You give them something to think about.

You milk it for everything you can get.

You give them something wholesome, something world-mending, something that helps heal the divisions and misunderstandings between people.

You smash apart the tender feeling and reveal it all as a joke. Relieved laughter ensues. You hope.

You point out the glory of God in all things and in themselves. You try to lead them to Jesus. Mohammed. Buddha. Gaea. Shiva. Love.

You make a political statement.

Or maybe, you don't have to worry about it at all, because the song writer took care of that already. You just go along with the flow of the song and present/act out the story of the song the best you can. Just figure that Irving Berlin already thought about that question and go with whatever his song indicates.

What do you do?



PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS

April 5, Division One Contest – Greendale
Madison Show – Manitowoc Show – Oshkosh Show

April 12, Wausau Show - Plymouth Show – Appleton Show

May 2-4, (Fri-Sun) L'OL Spring International Pre-lims - La Crosse

May 10, (Sat) Singing For Life Blood Drive 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. @ Harmony House

May 17, (Sat) Packerland Div. 1 - Contest – Appleton, WI

Jul 2-8, (Wed-Tue) International Convention - Nashville, TN

Jul 4th, (Fri) Riverfront Rendezvous (be sure to sign up for pizza sales)

Oct 4th, (Sat) Harvest of Harmony - Stevens Point

Oct 24-26, (Fri-Sun) L'OL Fall Contest - Appleton, WI

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