

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

Packerland Division – Land O Lakes District

Volume 52 No. 4

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Director Search Completed – Other Candidates Considered

During the past few months, the director search committee has presented three candidate directors for audition in front of our membership. The search culminated with last month's announcement introducing Kevin Morrissey as our new director. All candidates were given the same assignments. That of working with one of our current repertoire songs, teaching a new song, working with our weekly afterglow song and fielding questions from the membership present that evening.

Having selected Kevin Morrissey as our new director, let's take a look at the other candidates. We began with **Jacob Oxley**. Jake is a student at Steven Point University and has been in touch with barbershop harmony all his life. He recently directed the Oshkosh youth chorus at the Mid-Winter convention in San Antonio, Texas.



Meet Jake Oxley

The final two candidates came to us in the form of a husband wife team. With virtually lifetime exposure to the barbershop style, **Roger and Kathleen Harris** expressed an interest in helping our chorus maintain our quality and perhaps get us to a higher level.

Meet Roger and Kathleen Harris.



Kathleen Harris



Roger Harris

News From the Heart Of Harmony

On Saturday, April 12th, the new model of the Heart of Harmony Chorus (West Allis Chapter) held its first rehearsal under the able direction of Joe Liles. Our repertoire consists of a variety of music styles from doo-wop, gospel, jazz, rock 'n roll, pop, modern to barbershop.

The day began at 10:00 a.m. with our sitting in chairs to hear a few brief

introductions and to warm-up our voices for about 40 minutes. Then, after Joe ran us through *Good Old Acapella* a few times, we hit the risers to rehearse it. Our model requires each man on the risers to know his music – open music on the risers is not an option. Hearing 24 men getting together for the first time to sing a song they already knew was something to behold! In a short time it was sounding pretty darn good. Then Joe pulled us off the risers to work on *Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive*. Since we invited everyone to learn the part on the learning tracks CD with which he felt most comfortable, we found that nobody learned the high baritone part.

Just before noon, we broke for an hour's lunch. When we returned, Joe sent us out for sectionals – he worked with the two baritone parts. An hour later, we all got back on the risers to sing through *Accentuate*. What a difference with all five parts! Gary Thiel was invited that day to take the solo part in the front end of the tune.

We continued to rehearse both songs for about an hour until we took a vocal break. Joe played the full-mix learning tracks for the two songs handed out for our learning for next month's rehearsal on May 10th. They are *Shangri-La* and *I'm Feelin' Fine*. We got a chance to sight read both songs with the CD. Everyone is excited to get into *Shangri-La* – it's a fantastic seven-part modern arrangement of a wonderful ballad.

Each guy was given the opportunity to introduce himself to the others – a terrific method to help get to know who we're singing with. After running through our first two songs a few more times, Joe stopped the rehearsal around 4:30 p.m.

Normally, we plan to rehearse from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the second Saturday

of the month. There is a temporary charge of \$10 per singer to cover the expenses of the day. For \$6/each, two new songs with learning track CDs will be available each month. By the way, full-time student and active military personnel are not charged. After the October rehearsal, we will have a 14-song repertoire and will begin looking for performance opportunities. With revenues from those performances, the \$10 charge and music expenses should be covered for each singer. Any male who has a passion for great singing is invited to sing with us. No auditions will be held – but each man is responsible for coming to rehearsal knowing his notes and words. For more information, please call 1-888-HOH-IS-4-U.



submitted by - Ron Rank

Historical Happenings

A Blast from the Past

Musings by Max Kopchinski



Historian
(Even back then!)

On Monday night, May 23, I believe it was in 1982, the Barbershoppers had a very unpleasant experience.

As we sat there rehearsing, some of the fellows noticed a fire a ways into the scrub pine on the lot across the street. In those days there were no buildings there, just mainly scrub pine. Three of the fellows went across to see if there was any danger, for after all; a

couple of our guys were a part of the Town of Hull Fire Department. They found a group of teen-agers around a bon-fire, drinking beer. Our fellows of course, insisted that they put out the fire and I guess this was not too well appreciated.

Up to this time, we had all felt quite safe with our cars and other equipment here at Harmony House, but that evening changed all that. I guess the bon-fire group decided to get even with us straight off that evening. Here again, we have always left a lot of our equipment and collection money upstairs when we all go downstairs for the afterglow. A lot of us regularly left our cars unlocked up to that night.

When we came back upstairs, we found that \$17.80 in collection money for Logopedics had been stolen. My best camera, old, but spoken of as a collectors item, worth about \$200 was also stolen. A few more things were stolen from the main floor, and then there were the cars. About every car which was not locked was entered and damaged. Jack Wysocki's cruise control was ripped out and about \$4.00 in change was taken from his car. Several flashlights were stolen from glove compartments. A very important notebook was stolen from Dave Peplinski's car. Pete Kabot had a headlight smashed. A fire extinguisher was stolen from Harmony House. Our Harmony Lane street sign was also stolen. Our director, Carmen Lane, had a window knob removed.

This account probably does not cover all the damage which was done that night, but as it is, I think you will all agree that it was a lot. So, all of you remember to lock your cars before coming in for rehearsal. Also, if you hear any dropped word on who any of the group which did this damage was, please let our president, Vern Holmes, or myself know.

Web Browsing

Our friend Ron Rank, who contributed to this edition of our bulletin, also steered me on to a web source that is chocked full of useful information.

You can visit it yourself if you are computer literate, but I plan to draw from it from time to time when I need that extra page of material. Pete Leahy really appreciates it when I get the number correct and the back page comes out where it is supposed to.

The address is www.singingas.com Actually, the web page title is Singing A's and I'm sure there must be a story behind that.

On the surface, the sight appears to be a series of links to other information, but further exploration reveals what appears to be a series of message forums. The messages contain various tips, some of which I will share with you right now. With each tip that I use, I will also use the name of the individual who originally contributed it to the forum.

Let's consider the basics of what we do in this hobby. While most of us might think we have a handle on those things, sometimes a little reminder from time to time can't hurt. Much like my list of all the stuff they expect us to remember a few issues ago.

One of the first topics I found was entitled Posture During Warm-up. Note that it doesn't say Posture During a Performance. This is important because the correct posture should be maintained at all times. Just like keeping those vowel targets constant. I'm sure that will come later.

Now, Posture During Warm-up. This was in the first post. *A typical warm-up procedure is to raise the hands above, and slightly ahead of the head,*

with hands clasped. Then the hands are unclasped and lowered slowly to the sides while maintaining the shoulders at the original height. It is IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT TO POINT THE PALMS OF YOUR HANDS FORWARD TO MORE EASILY MAINTAIN THE CORRECT SHOULDER POSITION. This can be easily demonstrated: if the palms are allowed to face backward, the shoulders automatically slump -- the very position we must avoid. Try it, you'll like it.
~Don Flom

The next tip was found under Posture and Alignment. It is pretty much summed up in three words, which I found unique and to the point.

"Lean and Beam" is a simple mental reminder that was used by perennial International Chorus Contest medalist Northbrook. It summarized all of the individual elements of proper posture and facial expression and became an icon for instant readiness to perform.
~Steve Holtz

BY THE WAY

In our second issue of 2008, I posed a question regarding an old photo of a quartet. To date I have not gotten any feedback on it. Perhaps the picture was too small. Here it is in a little larger version. Who are these guys?





Singing for Life Blood Drive.

A quick reminder about the blood drive scheduled at our clubhouse on May 10.

It will be held right at our club house from **8 a.m. until 1 p.m.**

We need at least 40 participants to have a successful event, so let's beat the bushes and make this happen!

Northern Gateway Chapter Officers 2008

President

David Quick

Music VP

Nate Peplinski

Chapter Development/Membership

Jack Edgerton

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CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

The Stevens Point Chapter shall dedicate itself to striving for performance excellence, by continually improving the vocal and visual quality of its musical presentations.

The chapter shall strive to attract the kind of new members who will contribute their energy, talent, and a strong desire for excellence.

The chapter leadership, reflecting the interests of the membership, shall commit itself to maintaining an effective organization that ensures opportunities for improved singing, for quartet participation, and for promoting the Barbershop music style.

CHAPTER VISION

To continue to be a highly respected male choral organization, dedicated to:

- Maintaining the Barbershop tradition.
- Pursuing vocal improvement.
- Seeking opportunities for community involvement.
- Recruiting new members and retaining current members.
- Promoting personal development.
- Entertaining our audiences.
- Preserving the joy of Barbershop singing.





PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS

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 Renezvous (be sure to sign up for pizza sales) Perhaps 3 days, details later!

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

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

