

We are harmonizing members of the Barbershop Harmony Society



THE IN CIDER PRESS



Bulletin is published by the Manhattan Kansas Chapter and Chorus

Volume 31, Number 7

Karen Nanninga, Editor and Publisher

July August 2008

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The Little Apple Chorus singing at First Presbyterian at one of many Summer Performances.

- June 15 & 29 & July 13 – The **Little Apple Chorus** performed spiritual songs for 17 services at 14 churches in Manhattan and the surrounding area.

And what do Barbershoppers do when they have time between services?

Why they sing tags of course. Myron Calhoun always has a few available to work on.



The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

InCider Press, a monthly publication, is the official publication of the Manhattan, Kansas chapter of the Central States District (CSD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Manhattan Chapter is the home of the Little Apple Chorus. The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

For more information about meetings or joining call or write to the Editor. (see below)

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 Musical Director.....Ken Lang
 Associate Musical DirectorDon Thomson
 Assistant Musical Director.....Myron Calhoun
 Music Chairman.....Bob Ridley
 Service Chairman.....Brian Arthaud-Day
 Show Chairmen.....Jim Lindquist and
Don Thomson
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Unless carrying a byline or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this bulletin are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or board. All photos in the bulletin are by the editor, unless otherwise identified.

All chapter officers are expected and chapter members are encouraged to contribute their ideas on a regular basis

An Exciting Summer of Performing, Listening and Learning

By

Harvey Kiser President

This has been an exciting summer for our chapter. As a chorus, we have experienced learning new songs for next year's spring show, preparing songs in our repertoire for the Veteran's Day performance, performing in 17 church worship services for 14 churches in Manhattan, Ogden and Sedalia, and performing two songs with the Manhattan Municipal Band and two other ones for the same audience.

We thank the music leadership of **Ken Lang, Don Thomson and Myron Calhoun** for preparing us to perform and directing us at the church services and with the City Band.

A chapter picnic was a success on July 13 at the *Black Jack Hills* center after the church performances. The air conditioned facility was a pleasant place. We thank **John Thomason** for making the arrangements for the facility and the catered food, and thanks to our ladies for preparing the desserts that we all enjoyed. We thank **Don Thomson** for leading us in singing and for the **Manhattan Music Machine** for entertaining us. The informal singing of some of our repertoire songs was most enjoyable.

Eleven members and 10 wives/significant others attended the International Convention in Nashville enjoying the performances and the chorus and quartet contests. Those who attended were: **Bob and Telva Swenson, Don and Joan Thomson, Bob and Kay Ridley, Bill and Marilyn Bunyan, Leonard and Sharon Purvis, Loren and Donna Alexander, Jim Lindquist and Sally Soileau, Mason Swenson, Gary and Joyce Mott, Bill and Carol Hanson, and Harvey and Janet Kiser.** We were also pleased to tour the new Headquarters offices and the planned museum.

Eight members are looking forward to using their new learned vocal techniques because of their experiences at *Harmony University* that was held at Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO July 27-August 3. From time to time, those who attended will be sharing what was experienced. The experience and knowledge gained is unimaginable. Those who have attended in past understand this.

Those of us who had the privilege to attend this year's Harmony U along with along with 607 other attendees were **Don Thomson, Harvey Kiser, Mason Swenson, Fred Wachsmuth, Travis Troyer, Tom Fish, Brian Swenson, and Brian Arthaud-Day.** The last four attended as the **Late Night Edition** where they received quartet coaching three times a day. Then they had the opportunity to perform in the *Parade of Quartets* on Friday night and in the *Afterglow* on Saturday night. **Mason** enjoyed performing Saturday night in the *Next Generation Chorus.*

All who attended thank the chapter for assisting in covering half of the tuition. By going as a quartet, the tuition for the baritone was waived. All chapter members and quartets are invited and encouraged to attend next year's Harmony U. Or at least, plan to attend the following year.

These summer experiences provide us in the LAC with a good foundation to continue the enjoyment of our music and the improvement in our craft and performances. ♪

Barbershop 101 and Harmony University

By
Loren Alexander



What a week

By
Tom Fish

Our own **Late Night Edition** quartet and four individuals attended Harmony University this year. We look forward to having them share their experiences and new knowledge with us at an upcoming session of BH 101 (Barbershop Harmony 101). Keep your eyes and ears tuned for announcements, as I plan to have them come to at least two sessions in the near future.

Harmony University takes place each year in St. Joseph, Missouri on a college campus. I attended last year and had a great experience. Our Barbershop Harmony Society organizes the event and brings in top performers and instructors from all over the country. Members of chapters from across the USA and from several countries around the world attend.

Our recent BH101 sessions, in case you missed them were:

Taking Pitch
Vibrato

Harmony Foundation (**Leonard Purvis / Brian Arthaud-Day**)

Show Preparations (**Don Thomson**)

Come join us as we "debrief" the guys from **The Little Apple Chapter** of Manhattan, Kansas. And then perhaps you can attend HU next year. Information on this appears in the Harmonizer, of course. ♪



Attending Harmony University from Little Apple Chorus were Don Thomson, Harvey Kiser, Tom Fish, Mason Swenson, Fred Wachmuth, Brian Arthaud-Day, Travis Troyer and Brian Swenson.

Photo by Harvey Kiser

Definitely not for the faint of heart!! Truly after you have been to Harmony University, you realize yet again, that Barbershoppers are the best folks on earth!

We had a fabulous week full of helpful tools for our quartet to work on, and perfect our sound and showmanship! But so much more goes on at Harmony U during the week!!

Barbershoppers are so gracious, helpful and loud! Yes, loud, you are just immersed in Barbershop chords almost 24/7! I swear some people didn't sleep the entire week!

We, **Late Night Edition**, were very blessed to have some wonderful coaches, who worked with us all week long, giving us ideas and options! I was very impressed by the fact that their whole approach was one of positive reinforcement and suggestions. I would encourage anyone who is in a quartet to take a week out of your summer, and you will learn more about your quartet in that week than you have in years!

Of course hearing **Max Q**, and **Road Trip, Round Midnight**, as well as all the coached quartets, was great!

We (I mean as Barbershoppers) have such a talented bunch of folks on staff at Harmony U that it boggles the mind! They are voluntarily giving up a week of their summer to pass on their knowledge to anxious barbershoppers, music educators, directors, scholarship holders, and anyone who comes wanting to learn!

Of course all the ice cream you can eat every night was an added plus for me! I thoroughly enjoyed myself and hope that I'll be able to go again next year! My head still hurts from all the information that was passed on, and it will take several months, again, to absorb it all and start putting it into practice!

I am always amazed at how the simple things can make such a large difference in your singing! Many of the things you hear have already been mentioned several times by our own director, but when you are in a quartet, and try to put them into practice on the spot, sometimes you will be amazed at how much better you can sound!

I look forward to seeing you all next chapter meeting! It's been great, but it's good to be home! ♪

Thanks

From and by
Don Thomson,
 Associate Director

First, "thank you" to the chapter and the chapter board for their assistance in sending me to Director's College. The whole week was very beneficial to me, and hopefully I will be able to, in the weeks and years ahead, pass on to the chorus some of the knowledge I gained in this endeavor. Let me mention just a few observations now.

First, each time I attend Harmony University I meet more and more people who share our hobby. These people include both faculty and students. There is adequate time to visit and prod the minds of those people who have participated in, and led very successful choruses. And, believe it or not, most of the men I meet and visit with in the various classes are members or directors of choruses much smaller, and I must add, not as successful as our chapter. This is a point of pride for me. While those of us who attend the school learn many things that can be very helpful in improving our chapter, we also learn that we already do most everything the right way.

There is one thing that comes to mind where I know we can improve... it is in the learning of the songs we sing. "Music making" takes place after the notes and words have been learned. We learned this in our preparation for contest last year, and also in the preparation for our 2007 show. However, right now we still spend close to 90% of our time learning the notes and words, and **Ken** has about 10% of the preparation cycle left for creating music from our chorus. We can help with that.

Let me give an example (which might be a little extreme for us, but still can still help in making the point) with one chorus does.

Week one: pass out the music and a learning tape.

Week two: nothing on that song which gives the singer two weeks to learn the music.

Week three: Sing through the music twice (no direction or teaching by the director). On the second time through the song, those who feel they have learned the music are invited to come off the risers and sing toward the singers on the risers.

Week four: Singers are once again invited to come off the risers if they have completed their learning of the song. If there are still people on the risers, the director will have the music turned in and the song is discarded. (He feels that there is sufficient evidence that the song did not create enough interest for it to be

learned.)

Week five and on: Work is dedicated to sectionals, interpretation, intonation, timing, stage presence, learning choreography, and rehearsing choreography.

So the difference is that we seem to want to learn words and notes for weeks on end before we start making music. The example requires the singer to take personal responsibility for learning the notes and words. Too many of us are still relying on our director to "teach" it to us. I think we can take more individual responsibility in learning the songs. What do you think?

The second major difference is that almost all of the choruses rehearse for 2 ½ or three hours on a week-night. There may be 5% who rehearse for only two hours. Now, two hours might be right for us. What do you think? Is two hours sufficient for you to sacrifice one night a week. Do you think that you could benefit and/or learn more with a longer rehearsal? (We have done this when we go on "show schedule".) Please let your director or your board officers know what you think is the correct amount of time for an evening rehearsal.

Thank you again, for your assistance in sending me to this prestigious school. It was a very useful and wonderfully inspiring week for me.♪



Late Night Edition performing at Harmony University

Photo by Harvey Kiser



Improved singing by being carefree?

By **Harvey Kiser**

'Being carefree leads to improved singing' was the theme of **Ron Black**, Harmony University instructor for the class of "Care of the Senior Voice." This theme is what I expressed last Thursday night when opening our chapter meeting. Being carefree is an attitude of young persons. The class responded to **Ron's** challenge by having a smile in our eyes with our heads up and bodies, neck and throat being relaxed. He challenged us to have brilliance in our voices.

We were asked sing neither dark nor bright but with brilliance and depth. He asked us to use our head cavity above our air source (lungs) to produce resonant sounds in our head and have a youthful vocal production.

He worked with us to develop breath support so our vowels and sounds remained consistent from one to another. This helped us from going 'flat.'

Thirty of us in the class sang a unison note. We produced an overtone! Hearing the overtone was exciting. If you had been there, you would say that we were not sounding like 50-, 60- and 70-year olds. This is what **Ron** told us. We were singing with vigor, clarity, resonance, a wider range and brilliance. Singing like this came because it came from the effect of a changed attitude.

Next we sang scales, 'peal offs' and five-chords. 'Peal offs' are what **Don** had us doing last Thursday of going part way up and down on a scale and then singing the entire scale. **Ron Black** reminded that we need not go down as far as we think to sing a ½ step lower, and we need to go higher than we think when singing a ½ step higher. The sound was marvelous when we accomplished the appropriate interval move..

We became melodic singers singing -- every part and every person sang to the tonal center in our chords. We could hear the ringing of chords throughout the singing of "My Wild Irish Rose." **'Wow' to carefree singing!** ♪

It sure looks like the men from The Little Apple Chorus were having a great time at Harmony University.

WOW!, What a summer

By

Fred Wachsmuth

Hi guys,

It is that time of the year again. I love summer. The church performances was just the beginning, that was awesome, I love singing for God and all, then there is Harmony University to look forward too.

This year at Harmony University was outstanding. We had 8 from our chapter there. **Don, Harvey, Brian, Brian A., Tom, Travis, Mr. Awesome**, and myself. **LNE**, the pride of our chapter went to Quartet College for some intensive coaching.

The rest took in the learning experience, which this year was outstanding. The dedication of the staff, all gifted, was again the most wonderful part of the experience, as well in meeting with old friends from last year and meeting new one's, too, was wonderful.

The best learning part for me was the quartet factory with **Royce Ferguson**.

What a blessing to be in his class. I had sung with two quartets and with his intensive coaching the vocal part was a heart lifting experience for me. I had so much fun, as was the other class as well.

I finished the day with Tag singing class with **Dr David Wright**. What an awesome man, gifted as well. What a great ending of a day, and of course the ice cream, all you can eat.

Wow, and the singing, all 12 hours of it, and I can go on and on. The show on Saturday was great and the afterglow which our **LNE** started.

It just gets better every year. I look forward to next year. It is such a humble feeling being around such talent. What a blessing to be part of the barbershop experience, and always, it will be a part of my life! ♪





The Next Generation Chorus at Harmony University 2008



The chapter's youngest member in attendance, 'Mr. Awesome' – **Mason Swenson**, enjoyed performing with the **Next Generation Chorus** Saturday evening directed by **James Estes**, BHS's Music Educator - Youth in Harmony/Collegiate Development. All members are excited to share the joys experienced and information learned.♪

June 24 – The chorus performed two songs with Manhattan Municipal Band at the Larry Norvell Band Shell singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic and the Navy Hymn. The Chorus also performed two additional songs for the audience.

