

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 8

Karen Nanninga, Editor and Publisher

September 2008

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**Central States District barbershoppers at 2008 *Harmony University*,
Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri.**

See the Manhattan chapter members on the front two rows.

**First Row: Don Thomson, Mason Swenson, Brian Swenson, Travis Troyer,
Second Row: Fred Wachsmuth, Tom Fish, Brian Arthaud-Day, Harvey Kiser**

Nuggets from HU

by **Harvey Kiser** President

The class titled "Quartet Factory" at *Harmony University* was taught by **Royce Ferguson**. He was the tenor of the 1998 International gold medal champion quartet known as **Reveille**. This quartet sang on stage at the Manhattan spring show that year.

The vocal techniques he stressed were:

1. Breath control is a big factor to balance the sound and quality of the voices in a quartet
 2. Basic concept: 90% of the vowel production is in the throat area; the mouth shapes the words
 3. Relax: if one has a wide mouth, relax the mouth to have a round mouth shape
 4. Lengthen the vocal area above the vocal chords and relax the throat
 5. Relax and enjoy; recreate how it felt to sing great.
- (There is more information on **Royce's** class on page 4)

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)

Chapter Officers

President.....Harvey Kiser
 Membership and
 Chapter Development VPBill Hanson
 Music & Performance VP.....Tom Fish
 Marketing and
 Public Relations VP..... John Thomason
 Secretary.....Pat Caffey
 Treasurer.....Bob Swenson
 Member at Large.....Don Thomson
 Member at Large.....Loren Alexander
 Member at LargeChuck Marr
 Member at LargeJim Lindquist
 Member at LargeTerry Nanninga
 Member at LargeFred Wachsmuth

Appointments

SPEBSQSA A-063 Delegate.....Bill Hanson
 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
 Uniforms.....Chuck Marr
 Bulletin Editor.....Karen Nanninga
 Web Master.....Bart Bartholomew

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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



Compelling and Gold Medal Performances

By **Harvey Kiser**, President

Weren't the Olympics compelling last month as we witnessed many gold medal efforts? Don't we have compelling and gold medal efforts at the International Conventions of the **Barbershop Harmony Society**? **Jim Henry**, the director of the **Ambassadors of Harmony**, gold winning chorus of St. Charles, MO, spoke at last year's Harmony University about gold medal efforts. He emphasized that whenever his chorus performs, the members strive to sing a gold medal performance.

We in our Manhattan chapter strive to have gold medal performances by both quartets and chorus. This type of performance comes from a lot of dedication and effort. We learn our music and practice our vocal techniques to communicate the messages of our songs.

Harmony University has been an inspiration to us who have attended over the years. We enjoy learning good vocal techniques and singing barbershop arrangements and tags from Masters of our *Society*.

We are being taught each week by our chapter directors the art of singing well. These are the same vocal techniques that we experience at Harmony University. For example, **Ken Lang** asks us to open up our head space and throats to have a full and deep musical sound. He explains and demonstrates how to correctly use our vocal talents to produce melodic music. **Don Thomson** has us do warm-up techniques to improve our pitch, recognize intervals between notes, and listen to each other. **Ken** told us last week that this is good stuff. Using what **Ken** and **Don** teaches us, we hear overtones and undertones. Wasn't it cool at last Thursday night to hear an undertone?

** (Hm! **Undertones**? The instructor at *Harmony University* for the "Sound of Physics" said that undertones are not physically possible. The frequency (pitch) of the sound will not be seen on the spectrogram.; however, we hear the sound. I do not understand all of this, but the best I can explain it is that it is manufactured in our hearing.

Please encourage each other to arrive at our weekly meetings early enough so that we are in our seats at 7:30 p.m. This way we can experience and work together to improve our vocal production and performances. Come each week to our meetings and enjoy hearing continual improvements. This will enable us to continue having gold medal performances for our audiences like for Veteran's Day, Christmas time and the spring show ♪

The **Annual Business Meeting** of the *Manhattan Kansas Chapter* of the Barbershop Harmony Society will be **Thursday, October 2, 2008** during its weekly meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m.

BH 101 Tags

By **Loren Alexander**

BH-101 will meet at 7:00-7:25 p.m. prior to rehearsal September 18, 2008 in the parlor to talk about tags: What is a tag? How do they differ from codas (i.e. a Beethoven symphony coda can last for minutes)? Why do some singers get excited about tags? And any other questions we can toss out.

What a neat technique we experienced last Thursday! One of our quartets, **Manhattan Music Machine**, sang a tag for us. Then they spread apart in front of our sections to model the tag as we began imitating them. As a baritone, I listened to **Jim Lindquist** intently and learned the part quickly.

So, in a matter of seconds, we had heard the tag, practiced imitating the person on our part (tenor / lead / baritone / bass), and could sing the thing as a group. We had no printed text. We got the words spoken at one point, and we sang the tune in several shifts of key.

We have learned a lot of tags from individuals, and that impresses me, too. Often an individual (e.g. **Myron Calhoun**) brings a tag, usually with printed text, models each of the four parts for the sections, and we sing it a few times. Naturally, some seem to present no problem, others great difficulty.

Since my first days in the chapter, **Bob Ridley** has expressed great interest in singing tags. As a neophyte in this music genre, I had no idea why a person would get interested in singing a "coda" rather than the whole song and, especially, as an orphaned part of a legitimate song that we don't know at all. However, my experiences at conventions and Harmony University made it plain that tag singing has become an important part of singing barbershop harmony.

Why?

See you September 18 and we'll explore this bit of our heritage and current activity ♪



Welcome home
Richard



Good things to come

By **Don Thomson** Associate Director

We have had some very good rehearsals the past few weeks. We have made a lot of progress on our current repertoire (that is, those of us who have been to rehearsal). There are still several of you whom we miss...very much!

We have learned many things from our director that are going to have to be taught again for those who have not been there to hear his instructions. That is not to say that you can't catch up, but the more rehearsals that you miss, the more difficult it is going to be for you.

You have in your folders now, all but two (maybe three) songs that will be performed on the Spring Show! When we get to the middle of January, we should be in better shape for the show than we ever have been. Last year we sang better than we ever have, and hopefully we will sing even better in 2009.

First, however, we need to feel confident with the music. We can only do this by being present at rehearsal. Hope to see you next Thursday!

By the time you read this, you should have the "Fall Rehearsal Schedule" in your hands. Several of you have asked for this, so here it comes! Please use it, but also remember that the director has the prerogative to alter the schedule...depending on the progress we make through our following the schedule, remembering his instructions, and by our attendance.

Our lead section was fortified this past week with the return of **Richard Jackson**! Doesn't he look great! Great to see you **Richard**, and thank you for the work you performed for the benefit of all of us. We hope that this might be your last tour overseas!

The nominating committee has met and submit the following to serve as officers for 2009

President - **Harvey Kiser**

Vice-President for Membership and Chapter Development and President-Elect - **Bill Hanson**

Vice-President for Music and Performance - **Loren Alexander**

Vice-President for Public Relations - **John Thomason**

Chapter Secretary - **Pat Caffey**

Chapter Treasurer - **Bob Swenson**

Board Member at Large - **Jim Lindquist**

Board Member at Large - **Ken Lyle**

Board Member at Large - **Chuck Marr**

Board Member at Large - **Don Thomson**

Board Member at Large - **Fred Wachsmuth**

Changes for December

By **Harvey Kiser**

Our directors recommended to the Board that we consider two different dates for rehearsal in December because there will be three consecutive Thursdays that the chorus will not be rehearsing. Those Thursdays are December 18 – Christmas caroling, chapter annual dinner and installment of officers; December 25 – Christmas; and January 1 – New Years. Then of course, we miss Thursday, November 27 – Thanksgiving.

SO THE TWO RECOMMENDED DAYS FOR CHORUS REHEARSAL ARE – **Mondays: December 15 and December 22.** Please place these dates on your schedule so that we can continue progressing in preparation for our performances for our spring show of Saturday, April 11, 2009. We will talk about these dates at our upcoming Thursday chapter meetings. ♪

Invite a friend

By **Bill Hanson**

This is a quick note of reminder that October 23, 2008 is the second opportunity in the 2008 Chapter year to formally invite friends to join us for an evening of fun and Harmony.

Of course every week is open house but the two formal events of the year can only succeed with the work of each chapter member. We just need to think about how much fun it would be to sing in a 100 man chorus.♪

All but two of the ballerinas were in costume early for the matinee performance. At 1:55, the distressed director asked the remaining women why they weren't dressed yet.

The first one said, "It may seem like a silly superstition, but I never put mine on until 1:58."

"What about you? The same thing?" he asked the other dancer.

"Oh, yes. I have a two to two tutu, too!"

Continued from the front page

Royce is a master in working with singers to improve their singing through proper breathing. He was able to take a pick-up quartet from the class and have the quartet sound like a different group of singers after working 5-10 minutes with each person.

He talked about eliminating white space while singing. This is what **Ken Lang** stresses as well. **Royce** said to keep the height in the back of the throat and carry through to the next note in order to avoid white space.

To start out, a quartet can learn to sing and enjoy a few chords or measures of a song. Learn to do this well before going on to more chords or more of the song.

For quartet development, he said start with a learning track to learn a song. He said that it helps a quartet by mimicking the learning CD/tape of a quartet.

The best part of the class was having him work individually with each of us. Personal direction was most beneficial

For those who are attending the CSD Fall Convention in Cedar Rapids, October 10-12, you may locate a *Schedule of Events* at the following website:

<http://www.centralstatesdistrict.com/Fall%20Cedar%20Rapids%20schedule.pdf>

Notice



Our annual caroling event will begin at 5:00 p.m. on December 18 and end with the annual Chapter Installation Banquet at the American Legion Hall beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m.



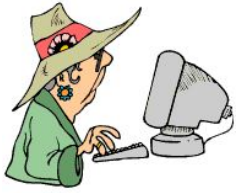
An adventure with Harry Harmony

Because Harry had forgotten the dates for a number of friends and relatives' birthdays and anniversaries, He decided to compile a list on the computer and have the dates highlighted on screen when the machine was turned on.

Harry went to a number of computer stores to find a software program that would do the job, but had no luck at the first few. He finally found one where the clerk seemed experienced.

"Can you recommend something that will remind me of birthdays and anniversaries?" He asked.

"Have you tried a wife?" he replied



Komments by Karen

Wow! Is it September already? Well the calendar says so. It has been a busy summer with a trip to Alaska squeezed in. visits with family, gardening and mowing grass again and again because of all the rain. But it was all great.

We have welcomed our 16th exchange student to our home. Julien is from Belgium and is fitting in very well. He hasn't been here a month yet but is doing great. He is trying American football even though he is not sure of the rules.

Speaking of school, I will show you a picture of our yard art for September. (Since I don't have any other pictures) To me the scarecrows are having recess with a softball game. And of course at my house a cat will always join in.

Looks like there will be a lot of things going on for you barbershop wise. Enjoy them all.♪



There is still time to register for the convention. Talk to Bob Swenson. The chapter is paying part of the registration..

Registration badge party will be October 7 at Bob's office

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter,"
Teaneck, NJ.

- 1- In the Book of Musical Americana, Martin notes that barbershop harmony and another type of American music enjoyed a remarkable rebirth starting in the 1930's. Identify this other home-grown musical genre.
- 2- Martin states that barbershop and that other type of music mentioned in question #1 above share many common characteristics. Name as many as you can.
- 3- Notwithstanding all they share socially, are there any musical similarities between the two?
- 4- There is an abundance of references made in books, articles and oral histories as to the powerful relationship between rural barber shops and barbershop harmony during barbershop's golden age (1890 - 1920). From this can we surmise that seldom (or never) was the ring of locked in barbershop 7th chords heard in urban barber shops?
- 5- In addition to providing the premier venues for singing barbershop harmony, in what other ways did late 19th/early 20th century barbers contribute toward the development and improvement of barbershop harmony?

ANSWERS

- 1- Folk music. 2- Both have European ancestry; both are music of, by and for the common people; both rose phoenix-like from the musical ashes; both enjoyed a tremendous surge in popularity during their revivals in the 1930's unmatched in earlier times; and both became musically respectable, entering the concert hall for the first time.
- 3- Not according to Deac. That's probably an over-reach, however, as many of the same songs are in the repertoires of both styles. Clearly, however, the manner in which they respectively treated the music, particularly with reference to arrangement, was not at all alike. Certainly the significance of musical instruments in folk music and the absolute prohibition of same in barbershop on one hand, and barbershop's lusting after ringing dominant 7th chords and folk music's nonchalance regarding them on the other hand, represent two huge stylistic differences between the two types of music.
- 4- Although I cannot definitively say yea or nay on this point, I can say that there's no logical reason to assume it, and, more importantly, it was not indicated to be the case either in Deac Martin's book or in any other barbershop history source I've ever read.
- 5 - Being at the epicenter of the barbershop harmony universe as they were, barbers with musical talent naturally gravitated toward becoming skilled quartet coaches; the first such coaches I have ever seen referenced in any source. They also served in an important promotional capacity, as they would invite people to stop by their shops at a particular day and time to hear the latest outstanding new quartet.

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 Karen Nanninga



**Chapter meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.
 Quartet/polecat practice begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Calendar of Events:

Chapter meeting	
Ladies Night	September 11
Chapter meeting	September 18
Chapter meeting	September 25
Chapter meeting	
Election of officers	October 2
Chapter meeting	
Deadline for InCider	October 9
Board meeting	October 13
Chapter meeting	October 16
Chapter meeting	
Guest night	October 23

Deadline for submitting articles for the next InCider is October 9

Upcoming Events

CSD Fall Convention Cedar Rapids, Oct. 10-12,

Thanks to the following for contributing articles
Harvey Kiser, Don Thomson, Loren Alexander and Bill Hanson—