

July/August 2012

THE HARMONIZER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



2012 International Quartet Champion

Ringmasters

INSIDE: New CEO Marty Monson • Get ready for Midwinter in Orlando • Best of the 2012 International Convention



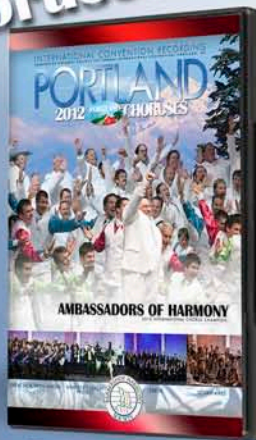
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MARTY MONSON
- 28** International quartet competitors
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- 45** Collegiate competitors



There were some unlikely stars at the 2012 International Contest. Read all about the week in Portland—minute by minute! Above photo L-R: "UG" (Prehistoric Oregon), Isaac Schlaegel (New York), "UG" (Prehistoric Oregon)

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2012 champion Ringmasters
PHOTO BY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY
SWEDISH FLAG PHOTO TREATMENT: LORIN MAY

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"Give Me Your Hand"

Are you part of your chapter's circus?

One of the best aspects of getting older is that most of us get grandchildren. This past week Jan and I had the chance to take our four-year-old granddaughter to the circus in central Vermont—and not just any circus. It was Cirkus Smirkus, a kid's circus. The circus troupe of about 30 is all between the ages of 10 and 18 and the talent level is high. The entertainment level is just as high.

Much like the proverbial goose on the mill pond as it glides silently over the surface with its feet paddling vigorously under the surface, the circus flew by for the spectators with thrills and acts captivating both the real children and the older "children."

And while my granddaughter did not miss a single second, I was caught up in the thought of how much like our chapters this circus is or could be. The face of the circus is the troupe of 30. But the support of those 30 performers requires nearly twice as many back stage people.



The only reward most members want for their dedicated hard work is a little gratitude and recognition. Do you do that on a regular basis? It is something we so easily overlook.

the "Joe Barbershoppers" of our chapters, and tell their story in *The Harmonizer*. But what do we do within our own chapters to recognize these stalwarts of our chapters? Most chapters give out awards for Barbershopper of the Month. That takes care of 12 guys. Many have a Barbershopper of the Year or Hall of Fame, which may take care of one or two more members. although they are probably part of the 12 monthly awards anyway.

An interesting aspect of volunteer orga-

nizations is that the only reward most members want for their dedicated hard work is a little gratitude and recognition. Do you do that on a regular basis? The need for recognition is one of the easiest and least expensive needs to meet. But it is something we so easily overlook.

Every one of our members who contributes to the success of your chapter deserves acknowledgement and to be told that they are greatly appreciated. Thank each of your volunteers when they complete their task. Thank each volunteer personally. Be specific with your praise and recognition. Avoid sales incentives and reward models for your volunteers. You'll get better results when everyone who contributed is recognized than you will by rewarding your top sales people (most number of new members, most ad sales for your show program, etc.). Address thank-you notes to your volunteers with a personal salutation. Hand-write the note—don't do it on the computer (and don't do it by e-mail).

And if you are not a member of your chapter leadership, consider taking on one more task for your chapter. Be part of the back stage crew. Let your chapter president or musical director receive praise for your chorus's or your chapter's performance, knowing that it is praise for everyone involved. If you have never recruited a member, make that your goal for the next four months. If you have never served on a committee for your annual show, make that your goal for the next year. If you have never stepped up to serve on your chapter's executive board, make that a goal for the next year.

Don't be a spectator at the circus—be a part of the circus. Whether hanging from a trapeze 20 feet above the ground, being a clown to distract the audience while someone else is resetting equipment, collecting tickets at the door, or selling popcorn, be part of the action.



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Make time for our two greatest events

Here at headquarters, we're still coming down from two of the greatest barbershop highs: July's International Convention and Harmony University just a few weeks later. We are also very excited to be working with the Society's new CEO, Marty Monson. He'll occupy this column starting in our next issue, and you *will* be excited!

Portland: The truly international convention

Where to begin? How about just the city itself? The sun shined on us all week in the typically rainy Northwest. We took in the sights of the Rose Garden, had day trips to nearby mountains or the beach, ate in some great restaurants, and had maybe one too many donuts. Tag singing was alive and well in the lobbies of each hotel each night. It was sometimes difficult to make it to the elevator even at 3 a.m.! The sign of a *great* convention!

Of course, there were the shows and nail-biting competitions. Harmony Foundation International sponsors the International Collegiate Quartet Contest, which was won this year by **Lemon Squeezy** from Sweden. This is the third Swedish quartet and fourth outside North America in the contest's 21 years. That's pretty cool if you ask me! Harmony Foundation International's show paid tribute to the



These two events are great examples of education and enriching lives through singing.

Collegiate Contest and featured many past college champs, some of which went on to win the big show.

History in the making. The first affiliate chorus to win an international medal was **zero8** from Sweden (notice a theme yet?), which finished fourth. Also finishing in the top five were the convention host chapter **Salem Senateaires** (ug!) at 5th; Elizabethtown's **Kentucky Vocal Union** (3rd);

Hilltop, Minn.'s **Great Northern Union** (2nd); and back for their first repeat win, St. Charles, Mo.'s **Ambassadors of Harmony**. Not one of these choruses looked or sounded like the others. And each chorus, combined with the other 23, proved once again that the chorus contest is the real "Greatest Show on Earth!"

More history in the making. Your 2012 International Quartet Champion, from Sweden, **Ringmasters!** This is the first time an affiliate quartet has won the gold medal, and if you were there I'm sure you felt the energy in the room when they were announced. It was quite the week for the Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers (SNOBS). Their President, Henrik Rosenberg, has been working with our staff to get sig-

nificant press in Sweden for this monumental event. Congratulations to SNOBS, and of course all of the competitors.

For those of you who watched from webcastland, thank you for making the convention part of your life that week, even from afar. We had more of you watching than ever before. And while we're excited that more people from all over the world are watching, we sure hope you're making plans to be at the 75th Anniversary Convention next year in Toronto in person. June 30-July 7, 2013. Visit www.barbershop.org/toronto for more info.

Harmony University

Harmony University brought barbershoppers and music educators from all over the world. It started off with an inspiring keynote address delivered to the student body and faculty by new CEO, Marty Monson. Marty offered a small glimpse into his vision for our organization and truly set the tone for an amazing week of education. We did our best to webcast Marty's speech live and you can also view it right from the front page of www.barbershop.org.

Adding an additional "presence" to the student body this year was perennial top five international chorus competitor, Denver's **Sound of the Rockies**, who chose to attend HU en masse to receive a week's worth of intensive coaching while also getting the opportunity to take a few classes along the way. This is an option available to all Society chapters, by the way, and I highly encourage you to take advantage of it!

In addition to a strong field of Directors College students attending to learn all about their craft, Quartet College had 13 quartets, including two international competitors, in attendance for a week's worth of the best coaching money can buy! In addition to the HU Choruses (**Next Generation**, **Honors Chorus**, **Directors College Chorus**), the Saturday Night Show featured our 2011 champions, **Old School**, with appearances by **Sound of the Rockies**, **Frank the Dog**, **Instant Classic**, and **Lunch Break!**

Make plans now to attend Harmony University 2013, July 28-Aug. 4.

These are two great events bringing barbershoppers together to celebrate harmony each year. Both are great examples of what our organization is about: education and enriching lives through singing. Plan to attend at least one of these next year.

Rick Spencer

Non-Masters also like to collect “Hale-isms”

In 2008, Mark Hale was the Director of the second annual Harmony University Honors Chorus, of which I was privileged to be a member. We rehearsed with Mark every day for more than two hours and at the end of our week had accumulated our own store of “Hale-isms,” many of which later ended up on our coffee mugs and t-shirts. Among those we heard and took to heart were “Don’t make it sound like a ransom note—sing the entire song in the same font”; “Sing like you are driving with your foot continuously on the gas pedal, never touch the brake”; and my favorite (since I sang another part): “Group therapy for the bari’s starts in 90 minutes. The reason for it starts right now!”

TED BLANK
Hampton, NH



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Marty Monson named new Society CEO

On July 20, 2012, 23-year Society member Martin “Marty” Monson was named the Barbershop Harmony Society’s CEO/Executive Director after an extensive search process conducted by the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Board of Directors and the search firm Genovese, Vanderhoof & Associates. Nearly 60 candidates, many with extensive musical and association management experience, were considered for the position.

Marty was president and owner of Visual Communication Advisors, a strategic planning consulting firm. Prior to that, he was vice president of business development for Glowpoint, a telecommunications and teleconferencing company.

“I am honored by the opportunity to serve the Barbershop Harmony Society in this capacity,” Marty said. He has been president of the **Hilltop, Minn. Chapter (LOL)** for the past five years. His leadership has helped to significantly grow membership and transform the Hilltop chapter (and its **Great Northern Union** chorus) into one of the Society’s most dynamic organizations. An article about this transformation appears in the November/December 2009 issue of *The Harmonizer* magazine.



(www.barbershop.org/harmonizer)

“Marty brings unbridled passion and enthusiasm to this role,” said Alan Lamson, president of the Barbershop Harmony Society and interim CEO. “His ideas for the future, his successes with Great Northern Union, as well as his business successes, gave the Board the confidence that he was the right person at the right time for the Barbershop Harmony Society. We are also excited by his ability to work with staff, committees, the Board and the membership to move us forward.”

“The search committee was looking for a strong blend of skills, experiences, energy and vision as demonstrated in business and barbershop,” added Shannon Elswick, Society executive vice president. “Marty’s success at the chapter level is undeniable, his energy is boundless, and he brings a vision that we believe will engage current members and attract new ones. We also believe Marty will use the great resources we have as an organization to broaden and enhance overall awareness of barbershop harmony.”

Marty, his wife, Amy, and their children, Stefany and Luke, have relocated to the Nashville area. He officially began his duties at the Society’s headquarters on August 13.

This is no mere “hobby”—quartet helps healing begin after Aurora, Colo. theater shooting

On Friday, July 20th, 2012, Aurora, Colo. awoke to a summer morning unlike any other. A gunman’s massacre killed 12 and injured 58 theatergoers, and three million people in the Denver metro area immediately feared that by some chance they knew one of the victims. For Darin Drown, director of **Sound of the Rockies**, the answer, unfortunately, was “yes.”

Gordon Cowden, oldest of the victims killed that night, was the father of three daughters and one son, Weston—one of Darin’s former students. Weston reached out to Darin to let him know of the tragedy and to ask if a quartet could sing at his dad’s memorial service. Darin assembled the foursome of Travis Tabares, Chris Vaughn, Jim Clark and himself.

On July 27, with news media respectfully watching from across the street, the church slowly filled with friends, family, dignitaries, and others. Nearly two dozen Aurora police officers, in full uniform, black bands across their badges, quietly paid their respects from the second row, for no other reason than that they were some of the first responders. This was their

community, these were their people.

Much was made, by different speakers, of Gordon’s happy outlook on life and his sense of humor. That was followed by the quartet singing “Poor Wayfarin’ Stranger” and “It Is Well with My Soul.” Prior to the last song, Darin spoke briefly about believing that Gordon would have wanted the morning to end on a more fun, uplifting note, and the quartet closed with “When I Lift Up My Head.” At the reception, Weston commented that he and his dad had laughed quite a lot watching internet videos of Storm Front. He then turned to Darin, thanking him for the last song, saying, “You really knew my dad.”

Before the quartet left the church, Rick Crandall, station manager of KEZW Radio AM 1430 in Denver, had gotten wind of the quartet’s performance. An honorary member of Sound of the Rockies, Rick asked if the quartet could sing on the air Friday morning, another effort to help the community heal. So, one week after the terrible ordeal, the quartet was interviewed and sang on Rick’s show. (Interview and performance still

available on facebook – Studio 1430 page)

After visiting with friends, family, and students at the reception, the quartet was stopped by the director of one of the largest funeral homes in the Denver area. “That was amazing—truly,” she said. “Funeral directors tend to go on auto-pilot. We’re getting the family from one point to the next, protecting them from the press in this case, making sure everything works just right so that the family can grieve. We become almost immune to the situation. But you—you started to sing, and all of the funeral directors just stopped ... and listened. For a moment, we were able to experience what this was supposed to be about. You brought the human element back to us this morning.”

We are often reminded, by chorus directors and coaches, of how powerful our musical passion can be to others—that this is no mere “hobby.” On this one day, in some small way, this foursome made a difference that helped this wounded community begin to heal.

—Jim Clark,

lead of 2010 international champion Storm Front



Two NBC late night talk shows get laughs with barbershop mashups

Two NBC late night talk shows had fun this summer by combining the wholesome barbershop image with somewhat edgier musical forms. A July 11 *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* sketch featured fictional summer replacement programs based on current or past shows. In a fictional singing contest called “Quartets,” a square barbershop quartet (played by Society quartet **Hi-Fidelity**) is mentored by fictional gangster rapper “Rap-To-Pu\$\$” to create a less-than-wholesome mix of barbershop and hardcore lyrics (PG-13 language warning). See the video at tinyurl.com/OTLeno starting at the 3:20-minute mark. www.HiFidelityQuartet.com



Tonight Show with Jay Leno



Hi-Fidelity



Late Night with Jimmy Fallon

more straight-up segment on Aug. 24. The host sang lead for an entire barbershop song with “his quartet,” the **Rag-time Gals**, fulfilling a request to combine a viewer’s two favorite styles of music: Barbershop and Reggae. Singing with Fallon (second from right) were his head

shop and Reggae. Singing with Fallon (second from right) were his head

writer and his editor, along with professional comedian Tom Shillue (second from left), who is a Society member and lead of 2003 NED district champ **Scolly Square**. The song was arranged by Scollay Square baritone Bob Martin. See it at tinyurl.com/FallonQT.

The *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon* show ran a



CONVENTIONS 2013

TORONTO
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2014

LAS VEGAS
June 29–July 6
2015

PITTSBURGH
June 28–July 5
2016

NASHVILLE
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2017

MINNEAPOLIS
July 2–9
2018

ORLANDO
July 1–8
2019

SALT LAKE CITY
June 30–July 7

MIDWINTER
www.barbershop.org/midwinter

ORLANDO
Jan. 8–13, 2013

LONG BEACH, CALIF.
Jan. 28–Feb. 1, 2014

NEW ORLEANS
Jan. 6–10, 2015

HARMONY
UNIVERSITY 2012
St. Joseph, Mo.
July 28–Aug. 4, 2013

Are you thinking of Toronto yet?

In July 2013, the world will meet in Toronto to celebrate the 75th International Convention. This great city is an amazing convention destination, with plenty to offer over and above great convention accommodations. Within walking distance from the convention center, enjoy Broadway-style shows, the CN Tower, a multitude of museums and endless shopping.

Get your passport NOW. You must carry either a passport or NEXUS card to enter Canada by air or an Enhanced Driver’s License to enter by car. Last-minute passports can be challenging and costly, so act now so you won’t be left at the border.

Choose your seats early. Register soon to choose the best vantage point in a great venue, the Air Canada Centre. Remember that early bird pricing ends Jan. 15, 2013.

Do your homework. Before you arrive, go online to find restaurants, get tickets for a baseball game, or maybe rent a car to take a day trip. You won’t lack for options in Toronto, so research your best options.

The Toronto committee is busy designing many memorable events for this convention. Chairman Rob Arnold is excited about the 75th anniversary display. “It is a Barbershop history buff’s dream come true,” he said. “You’ll see all 74 past championship quartets honored, including displays of their contest’s uniforms.” Additionally, all 17 districts will be honored during their past with displays.

Register at www.barbershop.org/toronto. Learn about Toronto at www.seetorontonow.com

Society Briefs

Get answers to judging questions at **barbershopHQ.com**. Join the ongoing discussion at the Society’s blog, where real judges give unflinching answers to bold questions. Questions addressed so far include:



- Do judges score across categories, and if so, why?
- Why did the **Salem Senateaires’** 25-minute set win a medal instead of a disqualification? Was it fair for Jeff Oxley and Jim Henry to appear in their set?
- Does drawing first position impact score?
- In a judge’s view, when does the performance start and end?
- Should small and large choruses be judged in separate competitions?

Hear Ringmasters on NPR/BBC. The first non-North American champion caught the attention of BBC Radio’s “The World” program. Millions of U.S. listeners and possibly many other European listeners heard the segment, which featured singing and quotes from Ringmasters. Hear the segment at www.theworld.org/2012/07/ringmasters.

Hiring for new senior Society staff position

Following the retirement of Paul Wietlisbach, the Director of Education position has been replaced with *Director of Educational Outreach Growth and Development*. The Society seeks to fill this position with a person who will provide vigorous, dynamic, visionary and strategic leadership and management.

The Director is responsible for the growth and new development of the Society's global outreach programs and festivals, barbershop educational curriculum, marketing and promotion of our published barbershop arrangements, and fostering engagement and involvement with other global arts organizations.

This person will represent the Society to the public, the media, and the membership as a dynamic, visible leader. Must have 10 years experience in a comparable industry with at least five years in an executive leadership position. Bachelor's required, Masters or Doctorate in Music Education or Choral Conducting preferred.

See the full job description and application instructions at www.barbershop.org/news-a-events-main/821.html. Deadline for applications: Monday, Nov. 5, 2012. Send referrals or expressions of interest to Patty Leveille (pleveille@barbershop.org).



WATCH 2012'S WINNING SETS ON COMCAST. Comcast subscribers: The *xfinitytv* barbershop channel features a schedule packed with footage from the 2012 International Convention including, *Ambassadors of Harmony*, *Ringmasters*, *Kentucky Vocal Union*, *Ringmasters*, *Musical Island Boys* and *A Mighty Wind*, as well as a "Tag Time" feature. From the Comcast menu, go to **On Demand > Music > Music picks > Barbershop Harmony.**

Christmas with Music Premiere Series 2012B

Get ready for the holiday season with the 2012-B issue of the Premiere Series, which includes six pieces of sheet music and a mixed track CD demo for each song. Four-part Tim Waurick learning tracks are available separately. These are top-shelf arrangements that most barbershoppers can sing. Purchase all six songs for \$14.95 (#206253) or purchase each separately. Hear a clip of each song and order at: www.harmonymarketplace.com/muprse.html

- "Do You Hear What I Hear?" (J. Liles) #206243
- "Little Saint Nick" (J. Nicholas) #206245
- "Mary Had a Baby" (D. Wright) #206241
- "Toyland" (E. Waesche) #206242
- "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" (T. Gentry) #206240
- "We Need a Little Christmas" # 206244

Society Briefs

Chuck Greene passes away. Chuck Greene died in his hometown of Asheville, N.C. on Aug. 28, 2012 from complications of a brief illness following a heart attack. An influential Society figure until the end of his life, he spent the last 10 years working as a chapter consultant and trainer, including the past several years devoted to creating and teaching the popular "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings" approach to chapter life. He was also a co-founder of the eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades. His years as Society member included attending 42 consecutive international conventions, including six years as an international quartet competitor with four different quartets.



AAMBS is now Barbershop Harmony Australia. Following in the footsteps of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the Australian Association of Men's Barbershop Singers is keeping its own legal name, but has changed



its public facing name to Barbershop Harmony Australia. "For many years, many of you may have had the experience of needing to explain the old AAMBS name and logo and describe what AAMBS meant," wrote members of the organization's National Council when announcing the change. They settled on a name that needed no explanation. Learn more about Barbershop Harmony Australia at barbershop.org.au.

Please update your membership records when you move. The Society's non-profit arrangement with the U.S. and Canadian post offices can become several times more expensive when issues of *The Harmonizer* are addressed to (and returned from) undeliverable addresses. Please keep your mailing address and other contact information up to date by logging on a ebiz.barbershop.org.



Ev Nau announces retirement. With nearly a quarter century of service between the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation, the longest-serving employee Ev Nau will end his daily duties on Oct. 31, 2012. He will continue to serve the Foundation on special projects through the International Convention in Toronto, July 2013 at which point he will have worked 25 years in service to the Society in a variety of roles. He has worked for nearly seven years as director of development for the Foundation; before that, he served many years as the Society's membership director. ■



How to care for your aging senior voice

The keys to maintaining your voice as you age are not a mystery at all. Anyone can do it with just a little effort. It starts with a little bit of singing every day. When we were younger, we could miss one or two days and it wouldn't make a difference. As we get older, it does. Here are some principles that will help you maintain a higher singing ability throughout your lifetime.

Practice proper posture when not singing. The older you are, the more you will have to consciously remind yourself to have proper posture while singing or walking. Make a conscious effort to not stoop forward while working on the computer or while sitting. You can't take your posture for granted anymore.

Practice proper posture while singing. Remind yourself to stand tall with your feet parallel to your shoulders, your chest high and your shoulders relaxed. This keeps your mouth and throat open and relaxed, which is essential to singing your best all the time.

Have a pre-rehearsal warm-up. Especially now, you will need a little warm up session of your own prior to each rehearsal—yes, a personal warm-up *before* the general warm-up will take place at the rehearsal. This is probably the most important vocalizing you will ever do, as it will help you continue to sing a higher level of quality for the entire length of the rehearsal, with no vocal fatigue.

Engage in some kind of breathing exercise. When you were younger, you could get away with a lot more things than you can with a more mature body. Your body's muscles are changing and you must make an effort keep them fresh and alive. You can no longer warm up your breathing mechanism by humming a couple of scales and singing on a neutral vowel, although even that will help a little bit. You need to:

- Be certain you are singing deeply with "warm" air. (Humidifying the palm of your hand will tell you that you are breathing deeply.)
- Breathe deeply without allowing your upper

chest to move. Instead, allow your abdominal wall to move outward when you inhale.

- Breathe so that your mouth and throat are open enough that you hear no noise when you inhale or exhale.
- Try hissing after you inhale silently for 4 counts, then 8, 12, etc.

Engage in daily physical activity. This is especially important as you get older. The muscle you sing with is one of the strongest in your body.

However, like all the other muscles in your body, it will also begin to harden as you grow older. (This contributes to the raising of the average voice pitch from middle to old age.)

The stronger your overall muscle health, the stronger your vocal health. Golf, go for walks, swim, or even get WiiFit. Do anything to help your body stay flexible.

Sing every day. Keep your vocal muscle as flexible as possible. You just can't get away with singing once a week anymore. Work on your chorus and quartet music every day—words as well as notes. Use your rehearsal recordings and learning tracks often. The older you get, the more review you need.

Always speak in your "mean range." The "mean" pitch is a fifth higher than the lowest *quality* pitch you can easily sing. This author has changed hundreds of singers' *speaking* voices as a means to improve their *singing* voices. Too many of us speak at a lower pitch than we should, and the older we get, the more problems this can cause. Many people with low-pitched voices complain of vocal fatigue (worsening of the voice with "prolonged" usage), soreness or pain in the throat, and hoarseness.

The condition is most common in people who use their voices a lot, such as singers, and the problem becomes more common with age. Keep your voice clean and high enough while speaking so that you will have a much stronger voices while singing.

Staying active helps you sing more, singing more helps you remain active!

Keeping ourselves active through singing has the power to heal and stimulate our minds and bodies. There are so many of us out there today who have been helped with our bronchitis, asthma and other forms of breathing issues because we sing.

Singing also continues to build and maintain our skill-sets and discipline as we get older. We



When you were younger, you could get away with a lot more than you can with a more mature body. Take the time to take care of yourself and your voice.



Jim DeBusman
Harmony U
faculty, vocal
instructor
jdebushman@
att.net

Come to Orlando for Midwinter Mojo



By all early indications, the 2013 Youth Festival will be the biggest ever!

So far, 12 *new* choruses have expressed interest, and we expect most of our past choruses to sign on as well. With a popular destination like Orlando, you know it's going to be great! We all know Orlando is magic. Will we see 20 choruses? 25? 30, more? Stay tuned as the numbers add up!



Seniors quartet competition!

Florida is a magnet for seniors, and we'll be creating our own magnetic field of senior quartet competitors! Those guys will prove once again that they have the power to wow an audience. They've still got the chops

The Swedes are coming! The Swedes are coming!

Both **Ringmasters** and **Lemon Squeezy** will be coming back after their Quartet and Collegiate gold medal wins in Portland, and are sure to put on a great show, as will silver and bronze quartet medalists **Musical Island Boys**, **A Mighty Wind**, **Masterpiece**, and **Main Street**. Don't miss complete show sets from all the 2012 medalists!



Singing, tagging, & woodshedding!

Everybody loves the casual atmosphere of Midwinter. This is your chance for more relaxed singing, with a schedule that allows a lot of hanging out with old friends and meeting new ones.



New schedule!

Thursday: Golf Tournament; Convention Kick-off Show

Friday: Harmony Foundation International Youth Festival

Saturday: International Seniors Quartet Championship; Show of Champions. Go to barbershop.org/midwinter to see what's new! ■



Registration \$109 before Oct. 15 • Register 24/7 at www.barbershop.org/midwinter or call 866-996-6338 (mention Barbershop Harmony Society)

Marty's HU speech (Readers Digest version)

Excerpts from Society CEO Marty Monson's Harmony U keynote address, July 29, 2012

The pouring out of messages and phone calls I've received in the past 10 days continue to validate why I felt so compelled to put my name in the ring, and how honored I am to be your new executive director/CEO. My family and I couldn't be more excited about moving to Nashville and getting to work.

When I visited Nashville as part of the interview process, we pulled up to the building and it gave me chills. I know it's only a building, but I could just tell the move from Kenosha to Nashville was done right, and for the right reasons. I walked inside and felt this incredible sensation and pride for the organization. Our art form can be a powerful tool to the music industry, and with the completion of the building we will ensure that the wealth of information compiled over the years is readily available for generations to come—via all of today's and tomorrow's technological advancements.

Why be CEO? So, why is a guy in his mid-40s, with a successful business career, co-founder of a public charter school, and leader of one of the strongest growing chapters in our Society, interested in becoming the CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society?

In 2002, the **Great Northern Union** hired Peter Benson as our new director, and he approached me about helping him on the administrative side to ensure he could focus on the artistic side. After Pete's first four years of directing, we came up with the idea of taking two years off from competition. We estimated that after 20 years, GNU spent over \$2 million attending the international convention as a chapter. We enjoyed every minute, but the realization was that more people knew of GNU outside of the Minneapolis/St. Paul area than within in the Twin Cities area. (See "Taking Care of Business" in the Nov./Dec. 2009 issue of *The Harmonizer* at www.barbershop.org/harmonizer.)

Professionally, I had been traveling



almost every other week for the past five years developing and establishing technology distribution channels around the world with companies such as IBM, Siemens, Cisco, Tata, Avaya, Kimberly Clark, McKinsey and ESPN to name a few, but continued to be driven by the potential and dream of the **Hilltop Chapter** to grow and become a recognized arts ensemble in the Twin Cities. The Great Northern Union had started our premiere Collegiate Male Chorus Youth in Harmony festival, where after eight successful years we have reached more than 3,000 high school- and college-aged young men. More than 95% said they would participate again. They also stated that they didn't get enough tags to sing! You always want to leave them wanting more!

We are positioned to grow. What does all of this mean? The Society is strategically positioned to grow. Can you imagine a world where hundreds of thousands of men are singing, and where barbershop is recognized and taught as a legitimate art form around the world? I can!

The amazing 20-year growth of the international collegiate quartet contest, as well as the tremendous growth of the Youth Chorus Festival—for which we are anticipating a record number of choruses in Orlando—demonstrates that we are building for a greater tomorrow. I use the word "festival" carefully. Even though I'm a competitor and always will be, the growth of our Society will be measured by many metrics other than just membership and who our next champion is. Our mission is to expand and preserve the barbershop style throughout the world.

If we grow our Midwinter convention as predicted, how do we celebrate and

leverage this success for the future and build on it regionally and internationally? What are we doing to provide even more opportunities for them to stay involved in our youth programs outside our collegiate chorus festival?

I can't wait to get started.

What excites your chapter? As I listen to all of your unique stories, visit your chapters and districts, be ready to answer this question: What is your chapter doing within its own community (locally and regionally, internally and externally) that keeps the chapter full of energy and excitement? *At the end of the day, nothing else matters.* We need your answer because no two communities are the same. Once you determine that, the Society staff can help you achieve the goals you've established. If we are successful in achieving your community goals, chapter and Society growth will take care of itself and the beauty of your singing will change the world. Keep the Whole World Singing!

I can't wait to get started. ■

Marty's musical pedigree

- Father, Larry Monson, a minister of music then high school music educator, five-time international quartet competitor with **Formalities**, director of several Society choruses
- Learned pride in music product within a family that constantly discussed the intricacies of the music craft (his sister, Ann Schoenecker, is music professor and past professional opera singer)
- Grew up watching father's quartet, sparking his interest in music marketing and administration
- While singing with elite college ensembles, helped organize a large annual high school choral festival
- Received a business degree with an emphasis in arts management; began producing music festivals throughout U.S. while still in college
- Joined **Hilltop Chapter** in 1991, first competed internationally in 1992 at same contest where his brother, Eric, won the first international collegiate contest with **Water Street Junction**
- Sang in school board quartet in high school production of *The Music Man*, professional quartetter at Six Flags, 2001 LOL District Champion and two-time international quartet competitor with **Bravo**



A moment-by-moment recap of a great International Convention

Portland framed by the towers of the Portland Convention Center, site for most of the week's non-performance events

SUNDAY, JULY 1

1:50 p.m. Just arrived. Projected daytime high in Portland is 65, or something like 100 degrees cooler than Nashville.

10:05 Our [frugal] annual staff party was about as wild and crazy as you'd expect when you hear the words "staff of the Barbershop Harmony Society." The girl serving the finger foods seemed to linger a bit longer by me. I think it's because of my looks. She thought, "This guy looks like he wants seconds and thirds." She was right. I should do something about that.

MONDAY, JULY 2

12:25 p.m. Taking a break from convention prep. We're a mile away from any Society hotels and nobody will have badges until

tomorrow—so why is it that we can still spot other Barbershoppers a mile away?

1:10 Just snarfed down the best bacon cheeseburger in world history. The server was a bubbly, tattoo-covered blonde with pink eyebrows.

1:25 Spent a few minutes at a MAX train stop listening to barbershop conspiracy theories. He [a friend] told us about two quartet champs who could have debuted at gold if they hadn't had one low-scoring set. He said it had to be on purpose—something about wanting to build up a fan base first. He's also heard the **Ambassadors of Harmony** aren't doing anything special this year, and it's as if they're not even trying to win. He thinks it's because they want to take second this year so they can beat the **Westminster Chorus**

in Toronto and be the 75th anniversary champs. He's not a tin foil hat kind of guy, so we'll see if he knows something I don't know.

6:45 Everyone downtown looks like either a model for *Tattoos Illustrated* or like the super-serious rich people at *unhappyhipsters.com*. No wonder Barbershoppers stand out in this town. But would they be so easy to spot in Dubuque or Peoria? Yeah, probably.



TUESDAY, JULY 3

12:55 p.m. Harmony Marketplace and registration area is pretty full. Can't walk 10 feet



I'm never far from my audio recorder at an international convention. This year, rather than reassemble my audio notes into blurbs about the groups, here are some time-stamped observations made in realtime—just as they came out of the recorder. (Okay, I tweaked a lot of them afterwards; be grateful you're not always reading the original syntax.) Typical of most years, most of the comments (and groups) ended up on the cutting room floor. Not typical was the fixation on conspiracy theories. (SPOILER ALERT: They end up being false!) Apologies if I didn't have room for your group this year ... and maybe apologies if I did!

— Lorin May, Editor, *The Harmonizer*

PHOTOS ON PAGES 12-27 BY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY (MP), SHAWN YORK (SY), MATT BOSTICK (MB), LAMAR HORN (LH) AND LORIN MAY (LM)





Instant Classic

7:57 Instant Classic (CAR) totally lives up to its name. I love that lead, whoever that is. [Brad Kieper] Don't start engraving **Lemon Squeezy's** name on the trophy just yet.

8:48 The Con Men (JAD) lead Matthew Hopper sounds like a young David Calland [**The Allies**]. Amazing. Wait, they're from Johnny Appleseed District, too ... I'll make a wild guess about who his favorite lead singer is.

9:24 Hope nobody takes this wrong, but I just congratulated Henrik Rosenberg [president of SNOBS] on **Lemon Squeezy** becoming the first Swedish champion of the week. I told him I've been hearing that this week is a two-quartet contest, so the Swedes have to like their chances. He told me it's a one-quartet contest, same way he'd tell me $2+2=4$. Not boasting, just stating a basic fact. Of course, he's heard **Ringmasters** recently and I haven't. We'll find out tomorrow whether he's right.



Throwback at the Larry Ajer Show

9:48 Speaking of conspiracy theories, I hope I didn't just start one. Someone on the train saw my staff badge and asked where to get off for a certain hotel. I showed him a map and somebody said, "What's that book you have there?" I said, "It's a staff information packet so I can pretend I know what I'm talking about." He said, "What else is in there?" I said, "Oh, you can't see the rest. It's got the names of this week's winners already printed in the back. It's all a big conspiracy." That got a couple of chuckles, but it was crowded and anyone could have heard that. So let's be clear: It was just a lame joke. I've been known to do that. And while we're at it, the moon landing? Totally happened.

10:14 Made it only five feet into the Hilton

and spent 20 minutes catching up with friends. Busy place with the Larry Ajer Show. Two times the conversation turned to scores and which groups got robbed of a medal last year. We Barbershoppers love our stats, don't we? Change the names and the stats and this could be any gathering of barbershop fans—or baseball fans—from any era. As long as the baseball fans sing.

11:13 Throwback (SUN) just showed why all these quartets are willing to stay up late the night before contest to perform on the Larry Ajer Show. They just killed it—medalist-level stuff, and tomorrow they've got an extra-big cheering section before their first note.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Quarterfinals 1

10:05 a.m. The Brits just kicked off the Quarterfinals. Their intro: "We'd like to celebrate American independence with this little song: 'God Save The Queen.'" Clever. And then the whole crowd sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" for a rebuttal. Never sounded better.

10:08 Look at the first six quartets: **The Allies**, **Main Street**, **After Hours**, **Ringmasters**, **Musical Island Boys**, **Lemon Squeezy**. Four recent medalists, last year's Cinderella Story, and last night's college champ. And then **'Round Midnight** and **Ignition!** before the intermission. You never see the arena this crowded on a Wednesday morning.

10:13 A TV crew showed up at the right time. You could do worse than [2006 champ] **Vocal Spectrum** on stage with the cameras rolling. But who wants to follow "On the Street Where You Live" for the mic test?

10:51 Pretty awesome set from **After Hours** (ILL). Definitely improved.

11:01 HUGE standing O for **Ringmasters** (SNOBS) on "I Love Being Here with You." Same with their first song, "Lazy Bones." Last time we were in Portland [2002], "Lazy



After Hours and their far-too-new outfits



Singing the Canadian and U.S. National Anthems



The always dapper Neil "Pookie" Dingle of Mayhem



Tim Marron of Glee Club Riot delivers the worst pun of the contest. (Best pun? No such thing exists.)



Wheelhouse

with a new tenor; and **Voices Unlimited** (CSD), which is **12th Street Rag** with a new bass.

6:04 **Masterpiece**, "Where've You Been" earns a huge standing O. They've got that one down. How did [bass] Brett Littlefield sing that last note? I mean, I know he's got the pipes for it and all, but they don't have notes on the musical staff that go that low, do they?

6:13 Two huge ovations for **Men in Black** (NED). Man, they're singing great. A lot of smooth power, more than they ever had before.

6:28 Really like the sound of **The Vigilantes** (DIX). They've got a future.

6:38 Only one quartet until intermission and I gotta eat. Somebody should study the link between scores and the judges' blood sugar levels. If you're singing toward the end of a stretch, maybe you could toss granola bars into the pit as you come out and you'll get a better score.

7:35 The lead of **Up All Night** (MAD) [Cecil Brown] finishes on what's got to be the lowest lead note ever. [A low, booming F!]

7:52 **A Mighty Wind** (DIX) has figured out who they really are: a group that isn't going to waste having a member of **FRED** [comedy kings and 1999 champs] around to up their funny quotient. Great stuff. And a lot of comedy so far in the quarterfinals. That's a good thing.

8:04 **Hot Air Buffoons** (JAD) are back ... again! Hilarious, and they sounded awesome. Too many quotable food jokes from "76 Trombones" to remember. Wow, that was funny. Wonder if their new tenor will stay skinny after hanging out with these guys for another year.

8:08 [whispering] **Mayhem** (MAD) just walked out and they haven't sung yet, but I think the quartet name is based on their suits. We used to have a couch that looked like those.

8:23 **Wheelhouse** (MAD) came out of nowhere ... again. Wow. Haven't seen them since forever. [Denver, 2007] Is that their bass from last time or are they now on their third bass? Wait a minute ... "Wheelhouse gets to third bass ... scores ...". Is there a joke in there? Wait, wait—no. There definitely is not. [And it turns out he's still their second bass.]

8:31 "Rubbing Elmo at The Ritz"—boo! The best/worst pun of the contest from **Glee Club Riot** (EVG). Yes, they rubbed an Elmo doll.

8:41 This has been a fun Quarterfinals. Groups that knew they weren't going to make the cut are having the most fun on the way out.



July 4, 10:21 p.m., nowhere near Denny's



Defiant bari Clay Hine of A Mighty Wind

the week for **Ringmasters**. “Love Me and the World is Mine”—they just killed it! Wow! It’s hard to imagine someone not winning with that. It’s over, all over.

1:18 It’s intermission. Those 10 would be a pretty fine top 10—can you believe we have 10 more to go? Talk about barbershop’s Hunger Games. This year isn’t going to be fair to somebody.

1:59 Just remembered: I called my wife during intermission and she asked how the contest was going and I said something like, “Well, every other song is a love song, so I can’t stop thinking about you.” Let’s just say I think that went over pretty darn well. Guys, you have my permission to steal that, but the thing is you’ve gotta mean it.

2:06 **After Hours** remain the darlings of the

contest. That was seriously good. “Put On a Happy Face.” They are so fun.

2:07 Just realized halfway through the contest that it’s guys from my old chapter who’ve been sitting behind me and providing a running commentary between songs. Where’d they learn so much about all these groups while living way out in the Hinterlands?

2:20 That was extraordinary. **A Mighty Wind**, they tell [bari] Clay Hine that he can’t sing and they cut down his bari solo to one word [“It’s”] on their “De-Lovely” parody. Great parody, great comedic timing. [Best line: “Consider this please, when you give the gold to the Swedes, you can’t afford to fly them in for your shows ...”]

2:29 **Men in Black**—amazing.

2:31 I have to mention something about the

crazy guys in full body suits handing out stuff before **A Mighty Wind**. Makes this place feel like a professional basketball game. And the Swedes doing their chants before their groups come on, there needs to be more of that kind of stuff. Just one more reason we need all these young Barbershoppers around.

2:40 “All I Need is the Girl,” by **Artistic License** (FWD)—that just became my favorite new uptune of the contest. And Todd Kidder just nailed another ridiculously long tenor post. [25 seconds] If that chart gets overused next year, I won’t mind. [From a Stephen Sondheim musical, they had it arranged by Tony Nasto of **Men In Black**]

2:42 Samantha Dale [wife of Aaron Dale, director and arranger for **Kentucky Vocal Union**] just walked by. I told her some chapter members had told me their package will be way out of the ordinary, but they won’t give me any details. All she said was, “The KIBbers [traditionalists] are going to have to be picked up off the floor and resuscitated.”

2:52 Against my better judgment, maybe I’ll print a photo of what **Masterpiece** always looks like from my seat. I’m sure it’s for the sound, but this “hide your baritone behind the other three” arrangement could catch on ... for visual advantages. You know how the bari jokes go. If your bari can’t sing like Alan Gordon, maybe you could also make him stand facing backwards.



The author caught rare glimpses of Alan Gordon (inset) due to the Masterpiece’s standing arrangement



The Allies



Artistic License



Vocal Spectrum



Max Q



OC Times



Crossroads



Storm Front



AIC Chorus



Interstate Rivals



Old School

Connelly won their first championship with Interstate Rivals in 1987, and their third of fourth respectively with **Old School** last year.]

8:53 The **Rivals** just sang “What a Wonderful World”! My favorite of theirs. Try to stay in a bad mood after hearing that.

9:19 [2009 champs] **Crossroads** just finished “Lucky Old Sun.” Zowie! When you go to an AIC show, you keep pinching yourself and saying, “Is it really this good?” Yes it is. “Do I want to be anywhere else in the world?” No way. One of these years, we should skip the contests and let the champs have the week to themselves.

9:39 “Kiss the Girl” by [2010 champ] **Storm Front**. I couldn’t breathe after a couple of those [video] montages—could have died laughing. The best one was where Jeff Selano [the Storm Front tenor with several medals at bass] locks eyes with his man crush [Max Q bass Jeff Oxley]. Oxley looks back wistfully, starts walking toward Jeff [Selano], then walks past him and blows kisses at himself in the mirror. Hilarious. I

thought this Oxley man-crush thing was only [Max Q lead] Tony DeRosa’s shtick ...

9:43 Jim Clark

[Storm Front lead] plays

the pitch pipe like a harmonica for an entire song. That was fantastic.

9:58 mmmmm ... [2011 champ] **Old School**. Add a side of bacon and you could have that song every morning for breakfast. Savory. Did you hear the conspiracy theory that they only won because of the big names in the quartet? Me neither, ‘cuz nobody said it. We just saw why.

FRIDAY, JULY 6

1:01 a.m. Finally looking at the semifinals score sheet. An 85 wasn’t enough for **Wheelhouse** to get into the finals? Some years, that’s a medal! Yup, the barbershop Hunger Games.

Chorus Contest session 1

10:23 a.m. If scarf prices are high this summer, it’s because **Great Lakes Chorus** (PIO) bought up every scarf in the country and just finished throwing all of them on the floor.



competitive chapters? "Tastes great" vs. "Less filling"? There's a joke there somewhere.

Chorus Contest session 2

4:16 We're doing "The Wave" while waiting for the **Ambassadors [of Harmony]** to come on. I think the Swedes started it. We're finally getting around to doing something that was popular back in 1980. And proud of it, pal.

4:23 [During very long ovation] "Dazzle with the softs" is what they say. Very powerful ballad from the **Ambassadors**. Best I've ever heard them sing. Never heard that song before—it was incredible. Gotta find out more about it. [David Wright's arrangement of "No Other Love" is based on Chopin's Etude No. 3 in E and was adapted by Paul Weston and sung by Jo Stafford in 1950.]

4:31 What was that I heard about the **Ambassadors** not being as good this year? That they were gunning for second place? The grapevine is populated by a bunch of morons. If that wasn't pulling out all the stops, I don't know what is. "Step in Time"—man, I can't wait to see that again. Even better dancing than "76 Trombones" in Anaheim [2009, their record-setting win]. And that ballad was off the charts. I've never heard them sing that clean. That is going to be very hard for GNU [**Great Northern Union**] to top.

4:45 **Northwest Vocal Project** (EVG), "Put Your Arms Around Me, Honey." They are flashes of **Westminster [Chorus]** already. That might be just enough for a medal.

4:59 Very unexpected delight from **General Assembly Chorus** (NSC). "An Uptune in Search of a Song," where they go into mutiny mode against the director. Great acting from [director] Bill Rashleigh. Instead of being a group that was going to fill the space until GNU, they give us a performance that everyone keeps talking about.

5:13 Here comes another conspiracy theory—**Music City Chorus** (DIX) just threw a parody segment from "Step in Time" into their uptune, with [chapter quartet] **Lunch Break** doing the **Crossroads** shtick. Now everyone's going to think someone at headquarters peeked at the **Ambassadors'** contest files. [Actually, the chapter did it the old-fashioned way and sent someone to spy on an **Ambassadors** rehearsal.]

5:16 One of the unexpected pleasures of being in the arena is talking to the strangers around you between sets. Some of them are real experts. I keep hearing all sorts of stuff I didn't know, and not just about barbershop harmony. For example, did you know wild bears roam Florida? Just saw the backyard pictures ...

5:24 Clay Hine [director of **Atlanta Vocal Project** (DIX)] may have left **The Big Chicken**



director of 2011 champ **Masters of Harmony**, of which he had been a long-time member. He never stopped directing Westminster Chorus via commute, so that means he's now the director of two of our last three champion choruses.]

6:55 THX (SUN)—wow, where did they come from? It's been years since we've heard opening chords like that from a group you've never heard of. [**Voices in Harmony** (FWD), 2007] I'm seeing a lot of faces from the **HD Chorus** that was tops in this year's Youth Chorus Festival.

7:19 The Alliance always has the best themes. This year was an over-the-top *Peter Pan*. Here's your chapter most ready for Broadway. Most kid-friendly set since they did Charlie and the Chocolate Factory a few years ago. Loved the "Shadow Peter" bit after the curtain closed.

7:57 What in the world was that? Everyone is standing up and chanting "Ug! Ug! Ug! Ug!" for the **Salem Senateaires** (EVG). We had "The Fish" in Indianapolis [2006, **Midwest Vocal Express**], and Portland will go down as the year of the cavemen. Last chorus of the contest, and they do something epic. **GNU** and **Ambassadors** didn't have this much buzz. That was staggeringly funny. Several minutes of action before they started singing. Oh my heavens, that was amazing. Now we have both the Music category and the Presentation category pow-wow-ing. That was at least twice as much acting as singing, but that was a show. And it was on their home turf. I must have taken 300 pictures. Can't wait to get the scoop on that set.

8:26 Great **Masters [of Harmony]** swan song from the "Catch Me if You Can" musical. And

Mark Hale's last bow as their director. The only tribute to Mark was in the speaking parts. I bet he made sure of that. Saw him yesterday outside the registration area and he wasn't very sentimental at all—just happy about what he'd done with the Masters and ready to give more time to some neglected parts of his life. He also talked about a barbershop craft story he'd like to write, so it's not like he's leaving barbershop. Classy guy.

8:59 They announced the medalists a while back. No surprises. Well, maybe **Salem [Senateaires, the cavemen]**, and they got the loudest applause of anybody [for fifth place]. But they earned it. That was epic. Same placement as "The Fish." That's three first-time chorus medalists this year. [**Kentucky Vocal Union** (CAR) 3rd; **zero8** (SNOBS), 4th; **Senateaires**, 5th]

9:05 Just talked to a caveman. He said the set took five months to put together and they cut out a whole bunch to TIGHTEN it up to 25 minutes. Apparently, Rick LaRosa [lead of 1999 champ **FRED**, coach to both **Lunch Break** and 2010 champ **Storm Front**] made up most of the jokes. That makes sense. That was inspiring. "Ug."

9:06 I bet we won't make it halfway through the finals before someone pulls out a caveman club on stage. Walking through the lobby ... everyone is posing for pictures with the cavemen. Yep, just like "The Fish."

9:20 Talked to Paul Agnew [bass of **The PURSUIT**] at the train stop. He lives in Florida but he sings with **Kentucky Vocal Union**. Told me the bass section sang a C above middle C in "Footloose." That's insane. So's his commute to rehearsal. The only reason he can do





139th Street Quartet



Lunch Break



Love Notes

so they can sing even higher than the women. After the last tag, I heard Jeff Oxley say, "I can't even whistle that high ..."

11:15 a.m. Someone who stayed up way later than me said you couldn't move around in the [very large] Doubletree lobby at 3 a.m., it was so crowded with taggers.

12:22 p.m. We're at the MegaSing. Just met someone I didn't know existed: a rude and vulgar Barbershopper. I *politely* asked if I could stand on the cement column in front of him for just a minute to get a couple of shots, and he tells me he's been standing there for 20 minutes, and then he said something I can't repeat and walked away. I guess the exception proves the rule.

12:32 Okay, turns out that guy isn't singing, he's just watching. Probably isn't a Barbershopper at all. Sorry Portland, this guy is one of yours. It's cool to see the reaction of all these locals who have no idea why all these people are gathered together and know all the same songs.

Harmony Foundation Presents ...

1:39 p.m. Young women singing barbershop—a love song—and an awesome group. [Love Notes] I'm in the pit and one of them

looked like she was looking right down the camera barrel a few times, and I had this epiphany about when I was dating my wife—about how being in a quartet kind of gave me an unfair advantage. Hey women, is that what it's like when four guys sing a love song to you?

1:54 Lunch Break: "... and on this farm he had an Attention Deficit Disorder caveman dog. E-E-I-O. With an Ug! Squirrel! Ug! Squirrel! Ug! Squirrel!" And the caveman club came back sooner than I thought. Great mic test.

2:10 139th Street Quartet. The fathers of the youth movement. Everyone says they're one of the best groups to never win gold, but that's a champion in my book. [They weren't kidding about their intro being longer than their set.]

2:40 My bad—just went through a stretch of great past college champs and made my comments to the people next to me instead of into the recorder. I guess I wanted to talk to someone who could talk back. Reggie Mobley [of 1999 champ **Station 59**] just snapped me back to reality with his counter-tenor solo. Could listen to that voice all day.

2:53 [2004 collegiate champ] **Vocal Spectrum**, "Music of the Night." Oh. My. Heavens. That's perfection. This may be blasphemy, but did **The Gas House Gang** [1993

international champ] ever sing it that well?

3:01 And [2005 collegiate champ] **Men in Black** continues to amaze. That piece from *Les Mis* was great. How did these guys get this good after being last place [56.9% in 2002] in their first college contest?

3:13 We just heard the most articulate and powerful pitch ever for Youth in Harmony from the bass of [2006 collegiate champ] **Musical Island Boys**. He talked about all the opportunities they've had that they never thought would be possible for boys like them, and why Harmony Foundation makes it possible for anyone to do what they've done. We need to put that video clip out to the world. Someone next to me just said, "Matt Gifford for Society CEO!"

3:33 Liking this rendition of The Eagles' "Seven Bridges" by [2011 collegiate champ] **Prestige**.

3:47 [1996 collegiate champ and 2002 international champ] **Four Voices** better stop making jokes about how they don't still got it. 'Cuz they still got it. Might even be better now.

3:50 Four Voices is getting back together! And releasing the CD that they almost finished years ago. Great news.

4:01 Here's your project: Get your hands on a recording of **Four Voices** singing "It is Well with My Soul" and **Interstate Rivals** singing "What a Wonderful World" and you will never be sad again. Impossible.

5:45 Talked backstage to someone about a group that got the songwriter's clearance to perform a song four hours before they went on. That's cutting it close. It'll probably end up as the difference between a medal and a disqualification.

5:59 Someone mentioned that yesterday Jim Henry won both gold [as director of **Ambassadors of Harmony**] and bronze [appearing with **Salem Senateaires**]. And probably the first gold medal director to get squashed by a dinosaur foot in front of a live audience.



Four Voices

Quartet Finals

7:58 p.m. Two really good inspirational songs from **Musical Island Boys**. [Lead] Marcellus Washburn is just tearing it up! He's doing stuff with his voice that nobody else would even attempt. He missed his calling to be a Motown star. Their loss, our gain.

8:06 Counting the mic testers [**Wheelhouse**], with **A Mighty Wind** that's three for three quartets wearing all white and singing inspirational songs.

8:17 THAT is how you sing "Georgia On My Mind"! That was powerful stuff from **Forefront**. One of the best performances of the week. Somewhere, Ray Charles is cheering.

8:33 Endless standing O for **Ringmasters**. We've seen applause like this many times before, where the crowd is saying, "Congrats, you just won this thing!" There are your champions. I think it's not even close.

9:16 Been taking pictures all over the arena without taking my recorder. Hurrah for **Masterpiece**, **Men in Black**, **TNS** and **Main Street**, not necessarily in that order. I should say more about them, but maybe I'll just write that I've used up all my superlatives for the week. I probably said "awesome" into this recorder about 500 times so far. Next year, I'm gonna have to pack a thesaurus.

9:34 "Just One of Those Things" by **Via Voice** got a huge ovation. They've got a future. LOVE that new tenor.

10:50 Couldn't pull out the recorder during the medal announcements 'cuz I was taking pictures. Great end to a great week. The nail-biter years are great, but this wasn't one



of them. I got four out of the top five right, pretty much in the right order. Liked the line from **Ringmasters**, something like, "In Sweden, we're not very religious, but I think we have found our religion now."

Ringmasters and their entourage just left the photo room here. That was one big group—I think they all had their whole families with them. Pretty expensive to fly all the way to the west coast from Sweden, so I think they must have been pretty sure they were going to win it. It turned out to be a pretty big margin [236 points, or a +2.6-point average margin], but I guess it shouldn't surprise anyone that the Swedes guessed right. You may have noticed they have an ear for quality singing.

It was cool to be in a room full of people celebrating in Swedish. We're used to Ringmasters singing in this perfect English, and it was a reminder that this is their second language. The only language common to all

of us is music. ... Hey, quote me on that!

11:15 This has to be the first International where I can't remember hearing the same song twice. What, is there now some secret Facebook page where everyone tells each other what they're singing?

SUNDAY, JULY 8

12:10 a.m. Well, this about sums up what it's like at international—chatting at a burger place in the Northwest at midnight, sitting with a Barbershopper from Manhattan and another from Australia and talking about our Swedish champions and the state of barber-shop in New Zealand. Never met these guys before and it was like sitting down with old friends. And when I probably see them in Toronto, they practically will be. What was that I said earlier? "Music is the only common language"? You can quote me on that because it's true. ■





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1. Ringmasters (SNOBS)

Emanuel Roll (Br), Martin Wahlgren (Bs), Rasmus Krigström (L), Jakob Stenberg (T)

Rasmus: ringmastersquartet@hotmail.com
www.ringmastersquartet.se

Song Title (in order of performance)	Music	Presentation	Singing	Points for round	Cumulative average (final average in bold)
Lazybones	454	450	452	2728	90.9
I Love Being Here With You	455	460	457		
Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea	458	463	465	2779	91.8
Love Me And The World Is Mine	465	465	463		
So In Love	452	457	454	2746	91.7
I Can't Give You Anything But Love	466	462	455		

500 possible points per song per category, or 1,500 per song/3,000 per round

2. Musical Island Boys (NZABS)

Jeff Hunkin (T), Marcellus Washburn (L), Matt Gifford (Bs), Will Hunkin (Br)

Jeff: quartet@musicalislandboys.co.nz, +6 421-778-403
www.musicalislandboys.co.nz



Now Is The Hour	450	451	442	2680	89.3
Who's Lovin' You?	439	453	445		
Childhood	441	462	445	2680	89.3
I Heard It Through The Grapevine	433	456	443		
If I Can Dream	439	449	441	2657	89.1
Climb Ev'ry Mountain	441	447	440		



3. A Mighty Wind (DIX)

Clay Hine (Br), Drew McMillan (Bs), Tim Brooks (L), Paul Saca (T)

Tim: timb@psasecurity.com, 770-982-5392
www.amightywindquartet.com

Lazy River	445	441	447	2666	88.9
Bill Grogan's Goat	443	447	443		
The Curtain Falls	438	442	441	2657	88.7
De-Lovely (Parody)	443	457	436		
He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother	439	449	440	2682	88.9
Hallelujah, I Love Her So	447	460	447		

4. Masterpiece (FWD)

Brett Littlefield (Bs), Alan Gordon (Br), Patrick Haedtler (L), Rob Menaker (T)

Rob: robmenaker@gmail.com, 310-327-3788
www.masterpiecequartet.com

Tennessee Waltz	440	445	447	2681	89.4
Where've You Been?	445	456	448		
Drown In My Own Tears	437	444	447	2659	89.0
Oh Susanna	437	451	443		
Music, Maestro, Please	441	449	446	2664	88.9
This Can't Be Love	441	445	442		





5. Main Street (SUN)

Mike McGee (Br), Tony DeRosa (L), Myron Whittlesey (Bs), Roger Ross (T)
 Roger: rarchloe@cfl.rr.com, 407-595-5359
www.mainstreetqt.com

Bring Back Those Good Old Days	420	437	432	2607	86.9
Fit As A Fiddle	435	447	436		
I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time	439	441	439	2660	87.8
Coney Island Washboard	438	459	444		
Old Fashioned Girl/Sweet And Lovely	441	445	443	2687	88.4
They All Laughed	451	459	448		

6. Throwback (SUN)

Alex Rubin (T), Sean Devine (L), Aaron Stratton (Bs), Dan Rubin (Br)
 Alex: alex@throwbackquartet.com
www.facebook.com/throwbackquartet

Sweet Pea	432	431	428	2600	86.7
Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)	435	438	436		
The More I See You	436	433	428	2587	86.5
I Will	427	433	430		
There! I've Said It Again	433	443	432	2629	86.8
Between You And The Birds And The Bees	436	451	434		



7. Forefront (CAR)

Aaron Hughes (Br), Brian O'Dell (Bs), Kevin Hughes (L), Garry Teixeira (T)
 Garry: garrytenor@yahoo.com, 317-489-8882
www.forefrontquartet.weebly.com

Since I Fell For You	429	432	430	2573	85.8
Fit As A Fiddle	427	432	423		
Indiana (Back Home Again In Indiana)	424	433	429	2560	85.6
I Only Wanna Laugh	419	431	424		
Georgia On My Mind	441	450	443	2651	86.5
Baby, It's You	437	446	434		

8. Men In Black (NED)

Raymond Johnson (Br), Karl Hudson (Bs), Oliver Merrill (L), Tony Nasto (T)
 Catherine: meninblackmgr@gmail.com, 407-405-1591
www.meninblackqt.com

Smile	432	432	432	2596	86.5
That's Life	433	438	429		
What Kind Of Fool Am I?	429	440	426	2591	86.5
Honey Bun	427	441	428		
What Do I Need With Love?	426	436	423	2593	86.4
Razzle Dazzle	435	445	428		





9. Via Voice (EVG)

Doug Broersma (L), Joseph Livesey (T), Mark Metzger (Br), Tom Metzger (Bs)
 Tom: tmetzger@gmail.com, shows@vovocals.com, 778-855-3592
vovocals.com

As Long As I'm Singin'	427	428	428	2565	85.5
I'm Through With Love	426	429	427		
Serenade In Blue	426	426	427	2558	85.4
Born To Be Blue	426	427	426		
The Song Is You	428	431	433	2581	85.6
Just One Of Those Things	415	438	436		

10. TNS (DIX)

Dusty Schleier (Br), David Carden (Bs), Ryan Killeen (L), Rick Spencer (T)
 Rick: TNSquartet@gmail.com, 860-305-0539
www.tnsquartet.com

Now Is The Hour	417	432	419	2521	84.0
Don't Sit Under/When Johnny Comes	413	427	413		
Sam, You Made The Pants Too Long	427	444	424	2587	85.1
When You Wish Upon A Star	429	437	426		
That Tumble Down Shack In Athlone	428	433	431	2566	85.3
Johnny One Note	422	433	419		



MATT BOSTICK

You thought we skimmed on coverage of the cavemen, didn't you? But who could short-change that 25-minute "First Barbershop Contest" masterpiece? We were nearly 10 minutes in before the paleo-musicians finally managed to get through the intro without stopping to club each other to death. In the meantime, they learned that every whack to the head could change the lyrics back and forth between "Ug Ug" and "Some-

where, Over the Rainbow" —back to a time where happy little bluebirds fly, but only if they can navigate a flurry of hurled rocks.

The epic set was literally a wild departure from the norm for the **Salem Senataires (EVG)**, who won their first international medal thanks largely to the writing and coaching (and performing) of Rick LaRosa (lead of 1999 champion yucksters **FRED**), combined with

some impressively non-prehistoric singing. The anachronism-filled set also featured **Vocal Majority** director Jeff Oxley, dancing lessons with members of **Westminster Chorus**, and the demise of **Ambassadors of Harmony** director Jim Henry—one of several slapstick deaths played for huge laughs. The cavemen's polished lack of polish will surely go down as one of the most memorable chorus performances of all time.



1. Ambassadors of Harmony • St. Charles, MO (CSD) • Dr. Jim Henry

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Song Title (in order of performance)	Music	Presentation	Singing	Total points	Average points	Men on stage
No Other Love	479	483	486	2903	96.8	145
Step In Time	481	495	479			

100 possible points per judge, 500 possible points per song per category, or 1,500 per song/3,000 per round



2. Great Northern Union • Hilltop, MN (LOL) • Peter Benson

I Heard You Cried Last Night	470	475	476	2850	95.0	118
One Of Those Songs Medley II	475	485	469			



3. Kentucky Vocal Union • Elizabethtown, KY (CAR) • Aaron Dale

Every Breath You Take	449	470	461	2760	92.0	39
Footloose	454	476	450			



4. Zero8 • Stockholm, Sweden (SNOBS) • Doug Harrington

You Are So Beautiful	442	451	463	2710	90.3	34
The Night Has A Thousand Eyes	445	458	451			



5. Senate Aires • Salem, OR (EVG) • Steve Morin

The Caveman Package - Medley	434	490	416	2674	89.1	52
The Caveman Package - Medley	436	483	415			



6. Northwest Vocal Project • Western Washington, WA (EVG) • Neal Booth

In The Wee Small Hours Of The Morning	430	434	449	2617	87.2	52
Put Your Arms Around Me Honey	426	437	441			



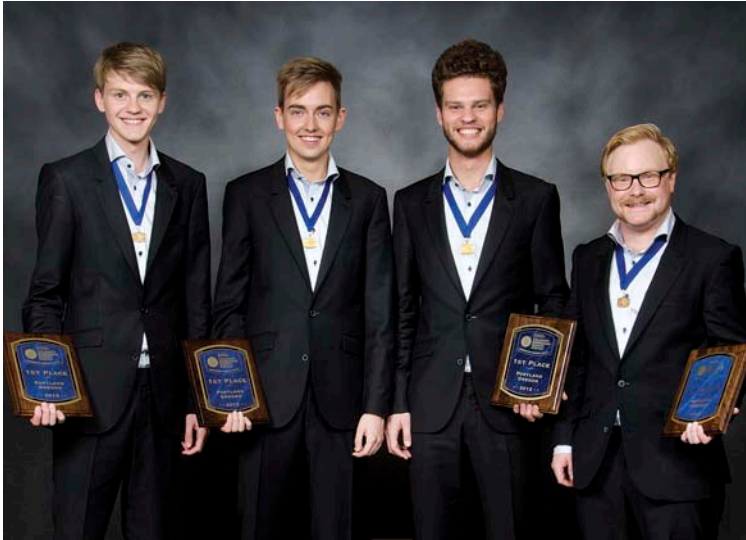
7. Music City Chorus • Nashville, TN (DIX) • Dusty Schleier

I Have Dreamed	425	433	430	2571	85.7	59
Little Patch Of Heaven	422	436	425			



8. The Alliance • Greater Central Ohio, OH (JAD) • David Calland

Peter Pan Medley	421	431	423	2568	85.6	54
The Second Star To The Right	426	437	430			



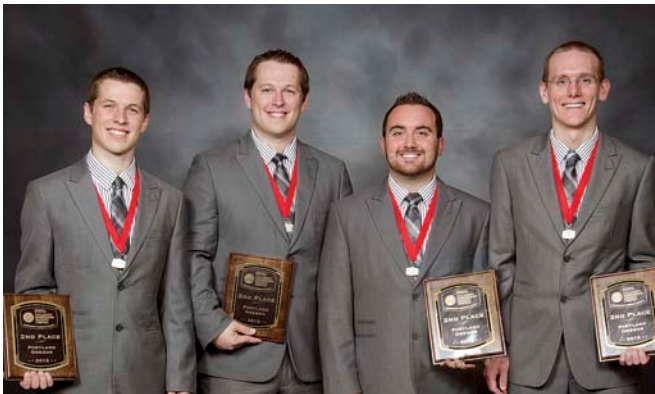
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1. Lemon Squeazy (SNOBS)

Victor Nilsson (L), Alexander Löfstedt (T), Martin Jangö (Bs), Jonathan von Döbeln (Br)
 Stockholm, Sweden
 Victor: victor.pi.nilsson@gmail.com

Song Title (in order of performance)	Music	Presentation	Singing	Points for round	Average score
Love Me	244	244	243	1471	81.7
Steppin' Out With My Baby	248	247	245		

300 possible points per song per category, or 900 per song/1,800 total for round



Looking At The World Through Rose ...	246	244	238	1462	81.2
Sunshine Of Your Smile	246	245	243		

2. Instant Classic (CAR)

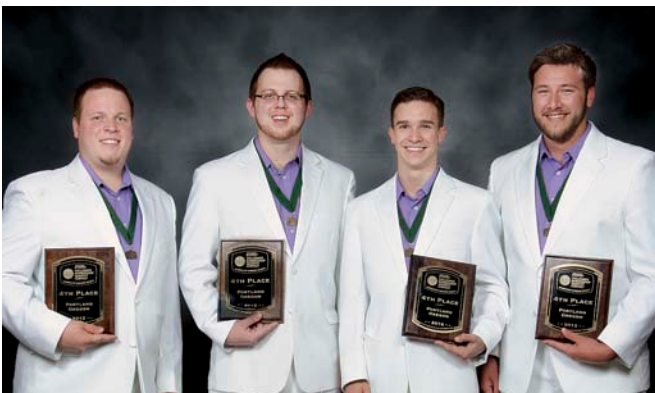
Kohl Kitzmiller (Br), Kyle Kitzmiller (Bs), Theo Hicks (L), David Zimmerman (T)
 Ball State University, Anderson University
 Kyle: kakitzmiller@gmail.com



It's Impossible	243	222	229	1390	77.2
Taking A Chance On Love	241	226	229		

3. The Con Men (JAD)

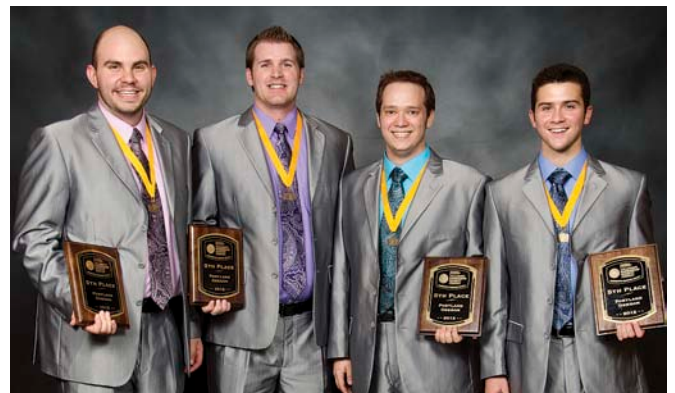
David Strasser (T), Matthew Hopper (L), Brent Suver (Bs), Russell Watterson (Br)
 Capital University
 Matt: hop0711@gmail.com



Blame It On My Youth	227	232	227	1380	76.7
Flamin' Agnes	229	234	231		

4. Dominant Prep (CSD)

Matt Suellentrop (T), Bryan Ziegler (Bs), Aaron Pollard (L), Nathan Johnston (Br)
 University of Missouri - St. Louis
 Matt: progressiontenor@gmail.com



Don't Break The Heart That Loves You	223	232	226	1372	76.2
Auld Lang Syne	226	237	228		

5. Bonus Track (SWD)

Anthony Bartholomew (Br), Spencer Mayer (Bs), Greg Owens (L), Anthony Fortino (T)
 Texas Christian University, Tarrant County College,
 University of Texas - El Paso
 Anthony: avbartholomew@gmail.com



You Keep Coming Back Like A Song 234 211 220 1343 74.6
 LOVE (Parody) 236 226 216

6. HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH (EVG)

Josh H. Honrud (Br), Paul H. Carter (L), Drew H. Osterhout (Bs), Deran H. Conkling (T)
 Western Washington University, George Fox U., University of Puget Sound
 Deran: ClassyLead@aol.com



If I Only Had A Brain 231 221 224 1338 74.3
 At Last 224 217 221

7. To The Fore (DIX)

Dinesh Gurpur (T), Eric James (Bs), Nathan Meisser (L), Jason Lee (Br)
 South Forsyth High School, University of Florida, University of Georgia
 Eric: ejpianoman@gmail.com



Don't Be A Baby, Baby 227 218 221 1318 73.2
 A Fool Such As I 220 214 218

8. Vintage Stock (CSD)

Sam Dollins (Br), Dan Rasmussen (L), Reed Pattee (Bs), Andrew Rembecki (T)
 Northwest Missouri State University
 Sam: samdollins@gmail.com



Oh! Look At Me Now 217 227 218 1318 73.2
 What'll I Do? 216 222 218

8. Gimme Four (MAD)

Paul Franek (T), Dave Ammirata (L), Will Downey (Bs), Joe Servidio, Jr. (Br)
 The College of New Jersey, Duquesne University, Montclair State
 University, Ithaca College. Dave: ammiratad@gmail.com



I Can't Give You Anything But Love 218 219 219 1316 73.1
 Love Me 217 223 220

10. Ebb N' Flow (PIO)

Nate Masterson (T), Garrett Gillingham (L), Craig Johnson (Bs), Ben Krinke (Br)
 Central Michigan University
 Garrett: enfquartet@gmail.com



Darktown Strutters' Ball 223 220 215 1316 73.1
 Fly Me To The Moon 221 222 215

10. Shoptimus Prime (ONT)

Adrian Smith (T), Michael Black (L), Tom Mifflin (Bs), Seth Bocknek (Br)
 University of Western Ontario, York University, University of Ottawa
 Seth: seth.bocknek@gmail.com



Gig turns out to be party for former first family

It was just one of those “be ready, because you never know what’s going to happen” kind of days. Kurt Boutin of the Nashua, N.H. quartet **On Air** (NED) recently received an e-mail from Jay Wiley of the **Granite Statesmen**, saying that someone needed a quartet for a 15-minute gig in Kennebunk, Maine. It was a little distant, but they had done gigs in Maine before, so Kurt told Jay their price and said if the client met the price, they would do the gig.

The price was agreed upon, and then something clicked—Jay mentioned that his contact had said something about Barbara Bush being there. After the exchange of several e-mails, it came out that the gig was a birthday party for Bucky Bush, the “little brother” of 41st U.S. President George H.W. Bush. He was turning 73 and George and Barbara would both be attending.

Song lists went flying back and forth and they decided on seven songs for this 15-minute gig. The guys thought it was a rather odd assortment of songs, but it went over amazingly! The birthday attendees were beside themselves and were mouthing words the whole time, pulling out cameras and taking pictures. It was quite exciting!

After **On Air** sang, they were called over to take



With George H.W. Bush, L to R: Bucky Bush, Jayson McCarter, Kurt Boutin, Dave Carlisle, John Green

pictures with the former president and his brother. Hands were shaken all around, and then the Bushes started talking about how their dad, Prescott Bush, would have his barbershop quartet over and the “kids” would listen to them rehearse in the house! One of the women there even asked them if they were members of SPEBSQSA! Who knew there was a history there? For **On Air**, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Miss America graces stage with New Image Chorus in former HQ-town of Kenosha



The reigning Miss America, Laura Kaeppler, visited her hometown of Kenosha, Wis. to be the Grand Marshall of the Kenosha Civic Veterans Parade held on Sunday, July 1, 2012. Following the parade, more than 1,000 spectators converged on the Sesquicentennial Band Shell where the Kenosha Pops Concert Band played and then accompanied her on three songs. The highlight of the

evening was when the **New Image Chorus** of the **Kenosha Chapter** (LOL) sang an original song titled, “I’m From Kenosha.” The chorus changed some lyrics to fit the occasion (“I’m” to “She’s” and “my hometown” to “her hometown”). During the performance, the chorus presented Laura with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and received a rousing round of applause.



Richard Mich, Secretary/Treasurer of the chorus, reported, “The old show-biz adage says ‘always leave ‘em wanting more,’ and that’s what we did. The audience wanted a longer performance from us, but Miss America was on a tight time schedule. It was an honor to be able to perform for Miss America in our own hometown, and we will cherish that moment forever.”

Footloose! KVVU member goes from car salesman to opera singer in just a few weeks!

Clark Evans, a baritone with **Kentucky Vocal Union** (CAR), really had good reason to enjoy singing "Footloose" during their contest set in Portland! This Elizabethtown, Ky. resident recently declared himself "footloose" from his job as a car salesman by virtue of having won \$15,000 in the New York Metropolitan Opera Company National Council Auditions. Evans studied voice at Murray State University in Murray Ky. and heard about this competition from friends who had entered in the past.

Clark's competitive journey began last fall when he won the district competition from a field of 1,500 entrants in Memphis, Tenn. He advanced to the Regionals a week later, also in Memphis, at which he won the honor of going on to New York to sing in the Semifinals, held

on the Metropolitan Opera Company stage. He was among the 10 Semi-Finalists selected as National Finalists to compete the following Sunday in

rounds. At the finals, there were four judges on the floor, plus an audience of about 300 agents and directors. Clark was the only small-town competitor.



MARTY SOHL



LORIN MAY

Equally comfortable on the Met stage and international convention stage, Clark gets down on "Footloose" with Kentucky Vocal Union. He credits his barbershop experience for keeping his voice in shape.

the public Grand Finals Concert, accompanied by the full Met Orchestra, again on the Met stage. He was one of the final five winners.

Judges gave input in the first two

Although you would never guess by his photo (he looks like such a nice guy!), Clark says he is often cast in mean, domineering roles, such as the police chief in *Tosca*, one of his favorites.

Many of the world's renowned opera singers have been recipients of this award. Clark hopes to join their ranks.

"The prize money will pay for coaching and travel expenses to enter other competitions and auditions, and enable me to devote my life

completely to singing. I am very grateful for the opportunity of singing with the Kentucky Vocal Union. It's been a lot of fun and a great way to keep my voice in shape." ■

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Society members reported as deceased between June 1 and August 15, 2012. E-mail updates to membership@barbershop.org.

Cardinal

Max Green
Lafayette, IN
Earl Limerick
South Bend
Mishawaka, IN

Evergreen

John Crawford
Twin Falls, ID

Central States

Steven Jurgensen
Sioux Falls, SD
Howard Lahr
Hastings, NE
Donald Peck
Kansas City, MO
Donald Sedrel
Omaha, NE
Jerry Snyder
Kansas City, MO

Far Western

William Biebush
Frank Thorne
Richard Boyd
San Mateo
County, CA
Charles Crawford
South Bay, CA
Tom Dosh
Stockton, CA
James Keating
Stockton, CA
Norm Knowlton
Palomar Pacific, CA
Charles Lovett
White Mountains, AZ
Clair Miller
Placerville, CA

Dixie

James Belote
Nashville, TN
John Centamore
Mobile, AL
Barry Myers, Sr.
NE Tennessee

Illinois

Tom Watts
Chicago Metro, IL
Rex Wright
Carbondale, IL

Johnny Appleseed

Arnold Appel
Xenia, OH
Wayne Barrett
Zanesville, OH
Norman Blakely
Columbus, OH

Land O' Lakes

Rod Johnson
Greater St Paul Area, MN

Illinois

Tom Watts
Chicago Metro, IL
Rex Wright
Carbondale, IL

Johnny Appleseed

Arnold Appel
Xenia, OH
Wayne Barrett
Zanesville, OH
Norman Blakely
Columbus, OH

Land O' Lakes

Rod Johnson
Greater St Paul Area, MN

Mid-Atlantic

Gus Beach
Mt. Vernon, VA
William Gallop
Prince William, VA
George Martin
Norfolk, VA
Vincent Ridge
Allentown Bethlehem, PA

Northeastern

Mark Blucher
Rutland, VT
William Kearney
Frederickton, NB
James King
Hanover, NH
Bob Lazure
Manchester, CT
Harry Lockery
Concord, MA

Pioneer

Laird Geyer
Grosse Pointe, MI

Carolinas

Bernard Bernstein
Hilton Head Island, SC
John O'Loughlin
Grand Strand, SC
Albert Will
Savannah, GA

Ontario

Robert Gills
Hamilton, ON
Donald Hansen
St Catharines, ON
Peter Thompson
Quinte Regional, ON

Rocky Mountain

Keith Pederson
Bernadillo County, NM
Albuquerque, NM

Sunshine

Arnold Appel
Manatee County, FL
Sarasota, FL
Frank Astorino
Sarasota, FL
John Centamore
Panama City, FL
William Dressel
Naples/Fort Myers, FL
Arthur Ellingsen
Hernando County, FL
James Francis
Ocala, FL

Southwestern

Richard Hall
Palm Harbor, FL
Phil Hansen
Greater Canaveral, FL
William McCord
Orlando, FL
Carl Rostek
Central Florida, FL
Harold Schoff
Melbourne, FL
Edward Shulman
Boca Raton, FL
Rex Wright
Sebring, FL
Rex Carmichael
Oklahoma City, OK
William King
Abilene, TX
Benjamin Whitney
Oklahoma City, OK
Fred Yeoward
Carlsbad, NM

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Contest Champion**

