

PennNotes



BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

2008-2009-2010 Atlantic Division
Large Chorus Champions

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That Old Barbershop Chair



**President's Corner –
Ig Jakovac**

Hi Gang – our Spring Show was a grand success – we have been seeing a decline in our spring show attendance over the past few years and it is very heartening to see an increase this year – we had almost 900 people in attendance for the two shows which is quite a bit better than the 780 who came last year – CONGRATULTIONS to everyone from our Show Chair George Kocher to everyone who helped out.... Our afterglow following our show was great fun with plenty of good food (catered by The Liberty Belles Chorus) and outstanding fellowship. Can't wait to do it again....

Our Atlantic Division Contest is just a couple of weeks away. We will be in Dover, DE this year – I hope that everyone has all of their reservations made and is ready for a fun filled weekend. We have an exciting package to deliver featuring a couple of “good old” barbershop tunes. Can't help but love those “choked full of barbershop 7ths” songs – it's what we live for....

Immediately following the contest we will be once again offering “free singing lessons” as a way of bringing in more new members. Please do your part in getting the word out – Dave Baraff has provided a great package of material – please make sure that the information gets out. Let's make this our most successful drive yet!

Finally, please reserve the weekend of Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2011 – this is the date for our Fall District Contest – please MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.



Our Director

Greetings all –

With contest fast approaching we again encourage everyone to take control of your music and not let the music take control of you.

With a few extra “reps” between Tuesdays, it's amazing how much you can refine your individual performance.

It could be that there is a spot in the song where you're just not sure of the notes or there's a move in that particular passage that you always miss - grrr.

So wait no longer! Take a few minutes during the week to fix that note or run through that passage while doing your choreography. If you're not sure of a move, call your section leader or any other of our visual team members. It's better to ask than be left standing, so to speak.

The fact of the matter is, the more prepared you are, the better YOU will feel about your performance in Dover after all it is all about enjoying this hobby to the fullest!

Allez Chanter!
Anne





Ig's Singing Corner

Hi Gang – let's talk tuning....

If we are singing a piece of music in B flat as an example, that means that “home” for that piece of music is always B flat (assuming there are no key changes). No matter where we are in the song, each of us should always have the keynote (in this case B flat) in our heads. If we do, the pitch for the song will be true and will neither sharp nor go flat.

With that “feeling” of the keynote, we are free to tune to the melody line to make sure that we adjust pitches and volume relationships to have perfectly tuned chords – by this I mean that each of us should start to recognize when we are on the root, third, fifth or seventh part of a chord and adjust accordingly. That way we can lock and ring more and more chords in each of our songs.

Please look at the notes for the two contest songs – mark on your music those times that you sing the keynote. (for Nearness of You, it is G and for Step-pin' Out it is A flat). Sing the pieces and each time that you come to the keynote, stop and blow your pitch pipe or plunk out the note on your keyboard and see if you stayed in tune.... Bases, I think that you will yourselves landing on the keynote more frequently than any other part (does that give you a hint about your responsibility?)

Each of us needs to be able to return accurately to the key note and always have that note in our heads – I guarantee that if you do that, we will always be true to the tonal center (another way to say that we will stay “on pitch”).



The Story of Our Old Barbershop Chair

By Walter Payne

The Barbershop Chair we're using in our competition set was taken from Roy Dornsife's Barbershop on Biddle Street in Gordon, Pennsylvania. The Barbershop was below street level in the basement of a large building that was used as the town movie theatre. I have fond memories of having my hair cut at Roy's Barbershop and viewing many Roy Rodgers, Lone Ranger, Tarzan, and Davey Crocket short films every Saturday at the theatre as a young boy. What a deal, 50 cents for a haircut and 25 cents for a movie. It was great to be a kid in the late 1950's ! During the summer of my sophomore year at Susquehanna University, I was employed in the Gordon Dress Factory that now occupied the former theatre building. The basement barbershop had long since been closed. One summer day while storing dress fabric and hangars downstairs, I discovered two dismantled barbershop chairs in a back room of the basement. I asked the owner of the dress factory if I could purchase one of the chairs and he simply told me to take whatever one I wanted - at no charge ! This chair was the one I could move by myself. The other chair was a more modern porcelain hydraulic model that was extremely heavy. I dismantled the chair, put it in the trunk of my 1955 Chevy, and took it home after work. Over the summer I stripped numerous layers of paint off the oak frame, removed the old leather upholstery, replaced the horsehair stuffing with foam, and upholstered the cushions with velour. Very stylish for 1971 ! This restored barbershop chair was quite a conversation piece in my dorm room during my junior and senior years at the University (1971 to 1973).

This chair resides in the basement of our home where it is used regularly by my boys and their friends. The chair was made by Archer, patented in September of 1891, and casted on April 24th of 1894 and is a constant conversation piece whenever we get together with my college friends.

By the way, there is a very good chance that Howard Fetterolf also had his hair cut in this chair. If you see Howard, ask him ask about Roy Dornsife's Barbershop in Gordon, PA. Unfortunately, neither of us did any singing while we were there.



Membership/Chapter Development

The North Pennsmen currently have a total membership of 71 men, of whom 58 are considered active singers, and we have one associate member (Anne). Our chapter has been experiencing healthy growth, and we are committed to attracting new potential members, and retaining our loyal and talented existing singers.

Your Membership Team are hard at work examining our effectiveness at attracting guests, and giving them a singing experience that will draw them in to full membership. Our chapter has effective leadership, a fun and constantly improving meeting format, outstanding musical direction and coaching, and a warm and friendly atmosphere. Perfect for any man who enjoys singing!

What we need now is for each of us to elevate membership as a priority – for us to look for opportunities to energetically introduce our hobby to anyone we meet. This isn't hard, especially if we have a true PASSION for barbershop singing.

Here's a **PASSION** test:

In the past WEEK, have you –

- Played** barbershop harmony for someone?
- Asked** someone what they do for fun/leisure?
- Shared** your barbershop hobby experience?
- Sang** in a barbershop quartet (woodshed)?
- Invited** someone you know to a meeting?
- Offered** to drive a returning guest on Tues. ?
- Named** three men you should speak to about singing, but haven't, yet?

If you don't answer "yes" to at least four of the **PASSION** questions, it's time to fire it up!

Vince Czepukaitis

Have you been contemplating starting a quartet?

If so, then be prepared to have the best experience of your singing life!

First thing you'll need to do is to try out as many singer combinations as you can. Get together with three other parts at break or before or after rehearsal. Sing through one or two chapter songs – pick the songs you like and can sing the best. Do this with as many different people as you can.

You'll know you have found 4 compatible voices when it becomes easier for you to sing your part. The voices begin to blend together and there is no need to force your sound into the ensemble.

Once you have found your voices, then set some short term goals as an example compete in next year's division contest (well yeah!), sing in this year's Holiday Show, pick and learn 2 new songs by July, etc. Once you have goals, and then determine what you need to do to attain those goals: rehearse once a week, twice a month, coaching, etc.

Quarteting will strengthen you as a singer and as a member of the North Pennsmen. Once you decide to compete, then you will begin to experience additional benefits like building self confidence, mastering the craft and even opportunities to help out fellow North Pennsmen through coaching and mentoring.



Anne



Meet Don Detweiler

By Jerry Heebner

Don has been singing barbershop music for 'only' 14 years but his interest in our style of singing goes back 35 years. The story is a familiar one. A friend invited his family to a barbershop show put on by the Allentown/Bethlehem chapter directed by Larry Reagan. He listened to quartets like Gentlemen's Agreement, Boston Common, Sun Tones, Happiness Emporium, Grandma's Boys, Bluegrass Student Union and others and he was hooked. His current favorite is Acoustix and he likes Vocal Majority as his favorite chorus.

But Don's interest in singing goes back to his high school days at Central Bucks High School. When Buckingham High merged with Doylestown High to form Central Bucks, the new music teacher, Mrs. Buckman, inspired boys to join the school choir. It soon became the thing to do for boys. Don sang in County and District events and was ultimately selected to sing in the Pennsylvania State Chorus in Meadville, PA during his senior year.

As a Barbershopper, he has sung with two quartets – The Young & The Rest Of Us (Bucks County Chorus) and Wired For Sound (North Pennsmen) and competed in district with both quartets.

He has had an interest in directing as well. He first directed church choruses in cantatas for special occasions. Two stick out in his memory. One was a special media presentation celebrating the country's bicentennial and another was in conjunction with an African-American church in Philadelphia.

It was his interest in directing that prompted him to help organize a group of retired North Pennsmen to become the Golden Pennsmen, who have been doing daytime gigs for more than four years.

A lot of Don's energy comes from the strong support he gets from his mail-order bride. He says he met Dorene through the U.S. Post Office while he was in the Army, stationed in France. He first wrote to his parents, but on a whim decided to write to Dorene. Before long, the letters became Love Letters (Don's favorite barbershop song) and he came home at Christmas to meet her. A year and a month later, after his discharge from the service, they were married on January 30, 1960...and the rest is history.

Don and Dorene have 3 children, Doug, Deanne, and David. They also have 9 living grandchildren, none of whom have a name beginning with D., Two grandchildren have passed away. Doug, a Guidance Counselor, and Kim have 6 children. Deanne and her husband, Jeff Rush lead a Youth Ministry in Morris, (Tioga Co.) PA and they have 3

sons. David John is a master carpenter with Brett King Construction in Blooming Glen, PA.

Don went into the Army and got training on fixing office machines but after arriving in Paris, France - how tough is that? He was re-assigned to Motor Pool duty. He thinks his shiny boots were a factor. He then learned to shoot a pistol before transferring to Nancy, France where he was #6 on a six man pistol-shooting team. A benefit was that it gave him the opportunity to travel about in western Europe.

Don had a brief three years as a billing clerk for Robert Wooler Co. in Dresher, PA before moving on to his 39 year career job with Century Kitchens where he went from Office Manager to Warehouse Manager.

Most of his life has been spent in Bucks County. He grew up in Plumsteadville before going in the Army. Don and Dorene lived in Doylestown, Plumsteadville, Bedminster and finally settled in 1958 in their house in Dublin where they live today. They used to have a garden there but now Don's outside activities consist mostly of mowing the grass.

Anybody who knows Don, knows that he loves baseball, even more than piano lessons...as his parents learned after years of trying otherwise. As a diehard lifetime Yankee fan, he remembers his father playing catch with him using a baseball wrapped in tire tape. While Don may have had a 25¢ baseball glove, his Dad had several layers of work gloves on his left hand while Don would "burn 'em in." Don got a real glove for Christmas one year. Unfortunately, it was a catcher's mitt! Maybe Santa meant it for his Dad? It was eventually exchanged for a fielder's glove. As a second basemen, he captained the Central Bucks team during his senior year. In later life, he enjoyed playing slow pitch softball until the age of 50!

Don's parents took camping trip vacations at Smith Mountain Lake in VA or Pine Haven Camp-grounds near Sea Isle City, NJ. Today Don and Dorene like to see the countryside with Perkiomen Tours to Yellowstone, Mt. Rushmore, Nova Scotia, Williamsburg, and Florida. Quite memorable were trips to Yankee Stadium, the Boston Pops (in Boston), the Grand Canyon and other National Parks in Utah. Bus travel has given them new friends.

Some of their friends get together every Friday morning for breakfast at Emil's Restaurant. When the Detweilers are ready to splurge, they go to the Cock & Bull Restaurant in Peddler's Village or Piper Tavern in Pipersville where Don prefers roast duck or some form of seafood.

One pleasing thing that happened to Don, was to learn that his nephew after seeing Don's love of music, decided that he would study to be a music teacher. The nephew now teaches and conducts the Penridge High School choir.

Meet Don Detweiler continues....

Don believes in applying the Golden Rule in his life every day – *Treat others the way you would like to be treated!* A favorite saying he likes to quote – “I can’t do anything to make God love me more and I can’t do anything to make Him love me less.



Things I believe

Anonymous

A birth certificate shows that we were born, and a death certificate shows that we died, while pictures show that we lived!

Have a seat. Relax . . . and read this slowly the Things I Believe...

Just because two people argue, it doesn't mean they don't love each other. And just because they don't argue, it doesn't mean they do love each other.

We don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change.

No matter how good a friend is, he's going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.

True friendship continues to grow, even over the longest distance. The same goes for true love.

You can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.

It's taking me a long time to become the person I want to be.

You should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

You can keep going long after you think you can't

We are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel.

Either you control your attitude or it controls you.

Heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

My best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

Sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you're down will be the ones to help you get back up.

Sometimes when I'm angry, I have the right to be angry but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel.

Maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.

It isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes, you have to learn to forgive yourself.

No matter how bad your heart is broken the world doesn't stop for your grief.

Our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we become.

You shouldn't be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

Two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different.

Your life can be changed in a matter of hours by people who don't even know you.

Even when you think you have no more to give, when a friend cries out to you - you will find the strength to help.

Credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the most of everything they have.

Warming up: tips from the top

***By Scott Hansen, Masters of Harmony,
2002 International Champions***

Warm-ups are important. They set the tone for the rehearsal that is to come. Each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. as the Masters of Harmony gather, we say goodbye to the worries of the weekday world and welcome the opportunity to meet with other men to make musical magic.

A common misconception exists that vocal warm-ups are for warming up your individual voice. Not so. The warm-up's primary purpose is to warm up the ensemble, not the individual singer.

The two most important aspects of warming up the ensemble are the mental and the aural. The mental warm-up involves the process of casting away concerns of the day and focusing our attention on the task at hand.

As we are warming up, these thoughts may cross my mind: Am I in proper singing position? Am I focused on the director? Have I made a commitment tonight to maintain personal discipline? Am I using the same vocal placement throughout my range? Is there any physical tension in my voice? Are my vowels shaped properly? Am I connecting all of the word sounds to create a seamless melodic line? Is my face reflecting the emotions I am singing about?

The second aspect of the warm-up is the aural tuning of the ensemble. As anyone who has sung in a quartet is aware, all four singers may be completely warmed up without the quartet itself being warmed up. Time and attention are required to match our voice to the voices around us.

As we are warming up, the director is listening to the sound of the chorus and the various sections and making suggestions to fine-tune the ensemble. While he is doing this, we are fine-tuning our own individual instruments, much as an orchestra does before a performance, paying particular attention to how our voice fits with the voices of the men behind and beside us.

So beginnings are important. Warming up the ensemble is about melding the minds and voices of the chorus into musical excellence. You can't do that without all your brothers in harmony, and we can't do that without you.

- From the Santa Fe Springs The Master's Voice



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY

- 3 Walt Rittenhouse
- 4 Tim Waurick
- 7 Pat Shelly
- 13 Tom Moyer
- 14 Dave Gale
- 16 Susan Wilson
- 16 Tom Scheponik
- 21 Jean Moyer
- 22 Bob Fennimore
- 27 George Carey
- 29 Ruth Weidler

June

- 4 Diane Davison
- 5 Jan Kratz
- 7 George Kocher
- 8 Rich McMillan
- 9 Kelly Green
- 14 Dino Colon
- 17 Lynn Sagrestano
- 19 Eugene Dehner
- 21 Josh Haberle
- 26 Laura Heebner



May 20-21

**Atlantic Division
Convention Dover, Del**

May-31

Folkways Sing out

June 16-19

**Harmony College East
Salisbury, MD**

June 21

Sellersville annual Picnic

July 2-July-10

**International Convention
Kansas City, MO.**

Thanks to this month's contributors:



**Anne Bureau, Ig Jakovac and Jerry Heebner,
Vince Czepukaitis, Walter Payne, Doug Marti-
nez, David Baraff**

North Pennsmen Officers

President..... Ig Jakovac
Past President..... Rich Maurer
VP Music & Perf.....Al Anderton
VP Chapter Dev.....Vince Czepukaitis
VP Programs.....Ig Jakovac
Treasurer.....Ken Gingrich
Secretary..... Pat Shelly
HistorianKen Ehrlich
**Board Members..... Dave Baraff, Al
Pasquale, Tom Telford**

Musical Director..... Anne Bureau

Golden Pennsmen Director... Don Detweiler
Meetings

Tuesday Nights, 7:30 p.m.
Central Schwenkfelder Church
Valley Forge Road, Worcester, PA.

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NorthPennsmen/

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A lot of exciting things are happening at the North Pennsmen Chapter. Bring your friends on any Tuesday night. They will have an enjoyable evening because..

**“It’s great to be a Barbershopper!
Especially at Lansdale!”**