

Penn Notes



**2010 Atlantic Division
Chorus Champions**

Volume 46, No 4

"Dedicated to Musical Excellence"

June, 2010



Threeppeat Champions



President's Corner – Ig Jakovac

Hi Gang – well, the Division Contest is behind us – how awesome to have won the big prize for the **THIRD YEAR IN A ROW** – congratulations to one and all! In addition, our good friend **Ellis Kocher** received his District Barbershopper of the Year Award – well, to be precise, **Miriam** actually accepted the award as Ellis stepped out and was nowhere to be found when his name was being called – congratulations Ellis – what an awesome achievement!!

Some of you may not be aware that the Lansdale Chapter also received the GOLD AWARD from the Harmony Foundation – we contributed \$64.93 per member to the Foundation. The Harmony Foundation, in partnership with chapters like ours of the Barbershop Harmony Society, exists to support and advance Barbershop Singing. Examples of some programs funded through the Foundation include:

1. 125 Harmony University scholarships
 2. Harmony Camps/Workshops with more than 4,000 students and 85 teachers involved
- The second Youth Harmony Festival with 9 choruses and 267 young singers involved. Three have already chartered as new chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Please note that any donation of any amount is tax deductible and if you choose to participate, you can designate 30% of your donation right back to the Lansdale Chapter.

So, why am I telling you all this when we have already been recognized with a GOLD AWARD? Well, it's because we currently have only 4 members who have made donations – it would be great if everyone were to participate – give what you can – it's for a great cause – please contact me if you are interested in donating something.



Our Director

Greetings all!

There is a good chance that at some point, someone from your section or our music team may come up to you and make a suggestion regarding something they have heard or have seen regarding your performance. It could be something as simple as:

“When you sing the word **tear** in this section, sing with tallness in the vowel, like this...I've been hearing it a little too strident” or

“When you sing the word **happy** in this section, emote more happiness in your face and voice - like this...” or

“Each time there is a **reset**, adjust your stance like this...” or

“In this section of the song, you seem to be singing a little louder than everyone else, so to match better, we need about 10 or 15% **less volume** from you”.

Ig and I can only hear and fix so much in one night. The smaller the details we can fix as an ensemble, the better the overall sound will be. You have heard us demonstrate as an example how the slightest difference in a target vowel can mess up the sound when we are trying ring a chord.

So the next time someone comes up to you with a comment, please embrace their suggestion – be gracious, thank them and change what is needed. They have our best interest at heart.

Happy singing!

Anne





ANNE, ONE OF U.S.

Ig's Singing Corner

Hi Gang – in case some of you have not seen the scores from our Atlantic Division contest, I have summarized them below:

Song Performed	MUSIC		PRESENTATION		SINGING		Grand Average
	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	
When The Toy Soldiers March on Parade	77	73	74	72	73	80	74.8
Toyland	77	71	76	69	73	77	73.8

The grand average score for all categories and all songs was 74.3%. WOW!!!!

This is just a hair better than last year and we got some great ideas for how we might improve (especially our presentation scores) – we are on it and will be getting some outside help to make sure that we put on an even better performance at the district contest.

We'll keep the contest set fresh and will be ready to rock and roll at the district contest – can't wait.



On March 24th, a group of us traveled to the USCI Service Building at 1600 Callowhill St. in Philadelphia to view Anne becoming a citizen of our great country. We applaud her and the 60 others from 30 countries that persevered through the procedure which culminated with citizenship.

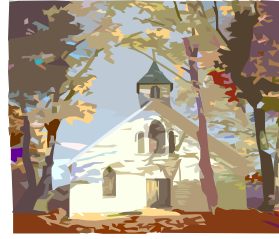
Upon arriving at the USCI Building we all were screened through a metal detector. Ken Ehrlich almost didn't make it! They didn't believe that such a Young looking man actually had metal knees!!

We arrived on the fourth floor. A gentleman (Lawyer) asked me if I was looking for the "Happy room" or the "Sad room". He informed me the happy room was where people became citizens and sad room was a court room where people were sentenced to deportation.

As we entered the happy room, before almost everyone else, I realized it was a "friendly room". Boy, I kept thinking how neat it would have been to sing to everyone. Anne and Ig arrived shortly after us . Aren't Barbershoppers always early?

The first hour was taken up by necessary paperwork for each individual. At 3 PM the official ceremony took place . The ceremony was impressive and inspiring in many ways. We viewed people from 30 countries becoming what we all take for granted, a citizen of the United States. I kept looking at each U.S. citizen to be with joy and admiration filling my heart. They did it right away!!

Continue next page——>



Anne one of U.S..... Continues

Big surprise— unbeknown to us, Anne was doing necessary paperwork with the clerk, she asked her if we could sing the National Anthem. We didn't even have a lead until Steve arrived at the last minute. We then had 6 Basses, 1 Bari, 1 Tenor and 1 Lead.

Anne directed us while singing lead with Steve and looking at the words in her program at the same time! Amazing woman! Should have heard the tag!!

Guys, it doesn't get any better than that. We definitely were the best barbershop chorus in that room! How neat is that? We will never forge the 24th of March 2010. Thanks Anne, for the Golden Memories. God Bless You.

Submitted by
Don Detweiler



SUMMER 2010 SUNDAY CHURCH SINGS

June 27 – Living Hope Community Church
Plumstead Christian School
Plumsteadville
Warm-up 9:45 a.m.
Service at 10:15
Don Detweiler, host

July 11 - Bethel Hill United Methodist
Bethel Road & Rt. 73
Worcester
Warm-up 9:00 a.m.
Service at 9:30
Tom Hurd, host

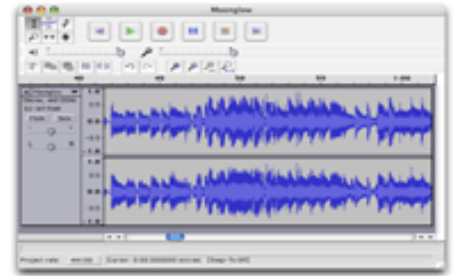
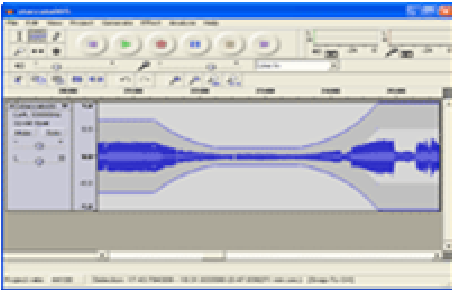
July 25 – Gwynedd Square Presbyterian
837 Sumneytown Pike
Lansdale
Warm-up 9:30 a.m.
Service at 10:00
John Weber, host

August 8 – St. John's U.C.C.
Main & Richardson Sts.
Lansdale
Warm-up 9:45 a.m.
Service at 10:15
Ron Huisenga, host

August 22 – Emmanuel Lutheran
75 W. Broad St.
Souderton
Warm-up 9:00 a.m.
Service at 9:30
Denny Vogel, host

UNIFORM FOR ALL OF ABOVE:

White pants, shoes, sox and belt;
blue short-sleeve button-collar shirt,
no tie



Using “Audacity” free audio recording/ playback software to help learn your part

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Background

How can a PC help the learning process? There are a couple of things to mention at least for me. First, when I'm practicing, I always think I sound better than I *actually* sound. This applies to being on top of the notes, to keeping phrases strong to the end, all the things we work on as singers. Hearing myself when I play it back, I can focus on listening to my sound (as opposed to producing it) and pick the places that need the most work. Surprise - I always find some!

Second, singing in tempo with the learning CD adds a pressure similar to singing in a contest - you have to be ready for that next phrase or syncopation, and you don't get a second chance. Mostly I know exactly where I have screwed up, and when I play it back, sure enough there it is. It's like a final exam, but you get to take it as many times as you want, until you get 100.

The only better “final exam” for me at least is to sing with three other guys, but I can take the Audacity test any evening I have a few minutes free and fix a few errors at a time, until it's as flawless as I can get it.

For me, this is just a tool that I find helpful.

Introduction

I've used the free software package called Audacity quite extensively in the past when preparing learning tracks for my chorus, and it has also come in handy when preparing for Brigades. In addition to a PC or laptop with a sound card, you will need a headset with an attached microphone. Any PC telephony or gaming headset from Best Buy etc. will probably work fine.

Obtaining Audacity software

Audacity can be downloaded from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/> as a free package. Download also the free package „lame mp3 encoder. since you will need it to create mp3 files.

Copy the part predominant files for your part onto your PC

First you should copy (“rip”) the part-predominant tracks from your learning CD onto your PC hard drive, either as .wav or .mp3 files. Audiograbber is a great, free program for doing this. If you use Audiograbber, you can rip them directly as .mp3 files to save space on your hard drive. (The other option, ripping as .wav files, takes much more space.)

Load a file into the first track in Audacity

What do you want to be when you grow up?

-Michael Nahill

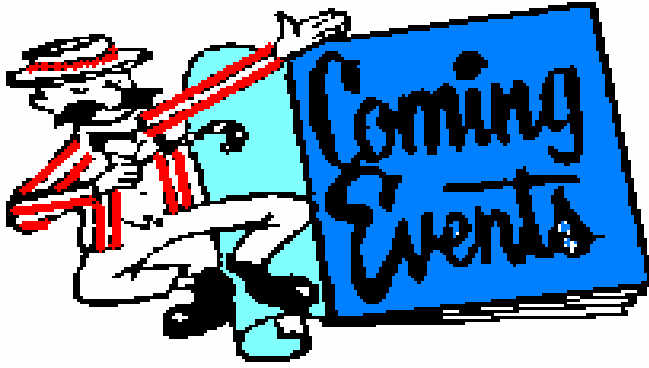
When I was fourteen I discovered the hobby of building and flying radio controlled model airplanes. From my house I watched as a model flew around above the field where the Budd plant used to be. One day, I walked over to the field and introduced myself to the pilot. We immediately became friends. I would spend many an evening in his basement and garage building models and talking about stuff. He was older than I was - thirty or so – and still playing with his toys, but he was also responsible. He was a schoolteacher, husband and a good father to his then four year old daughter. I wanted to be like him when I got older.

When I was thirty, one of our camping friends had their second child. They were such good parents. They worked and communicated so well together. I promised myself that when we had children, we would take parenting tips from them. Less than four years later, now with our own new daughter, we did just that. We emulated their parenting and asked their advice. I believe that I am a better parent for having known them and the evidence is right there in my children. Our daughters are emotionally healthy and well adjusted. And those camping friends are still great parents. And I had grown into the person whom I wanted to be when I was fourteen. I still played with my toys but I was responsible.

When I was forty three I discovered the hobby of barbershop singing. I wasn't looking for a hobby; I was just looking for music. What I found was a vast brotherhood of men who, like me, really enjoyed singing. What I also found was that within the brotherhood, there were many individuals whom I wanted to be like when I got older. They were responsible folks yet they still played with their toys. Except instead of airplanes and camping and Barbies, their toys were barbershop songs and audiences.

Recently, at almost forty five, I was once again presented with another person to emulate – the Alexandria Harmonizer singer. While waiting for our chorus's turn to perform, I had the privilege of watching The Harmonizers practice for their mic-test performance at the Division Chorus Contest; a prelude to the package that they are preparing to present at the International Contest this June in here in Philadelphia. Their director readied them, they assumed their starting positions, and they put the first song on their faces. Then there was silence. Eight or ten seconds passed and the pitch pipe sounded. Nobody moved. Then the director started them. They sang a painfully moving song about losing love. They all looked like they were singing right to me; the angst of their words painted on their faces in bold colors. I would not have been surprised to see tears running down their faces as they sang through the most agonizing part of the lyric. As the song ended, they returned to their original starting positions still with the first song on their faces. Once again nobody moved. Then the director motioned and, as if turning on a light switch, their next song started. Their faces immediately changed to jubilation as they progressed through the introduction during which they crescendoed from a sound that was barely audible to a volume that made the walls of the room ring. I was very impressed. And the song continued. Their choreography was very complex and included all of the men on the risers participating in a “wave”. Though everyone was jumping around, the words of the song were clearly understandable. As their performance concluded, I reflected on what made their performance great: All of their faces were engaged the whole time, the words were clearly pronounced and understandable, their choreography was together and their musical dynamics were astonishing. Even when the director asked them for something different, they all did it together. It is clear that Alexandria is prepared to compete at the highest levels.

It would have been a fantastic experience for the members of the Sounds of Liberty to have been able to watch the Harmonizer's performance. Those of you who missed it passed up a great opportunity to witness what is possible within our chorus – if only you would allow yourselves to take ownership of your performance. Practice and rehearse as though you were performing on stage. Learn the songs and the choreography. Listen while the director is speaking ... And strive to be as great as those whom you admired and wanted to be like when you grew up



**BHS International
Convention**
When Jun 29 –
Jul 5, 2010
Philadelphia, PA

October 1 — 3

**Fall District
Convention**

August 1-8

Harmony University



Thanks to this month's contributors: Anne Bureau, Ig Jakovac, Don Detwailer, Dave Baraff, Vince Czepukaitis and Michael Nahill from the Phila. Chapter



June

- 4-Jun Davison, Diane
- 5-Jun Kratz Jane
- 7-Jun Kocher, George
- 8-Jun McMillan, Rich
- 9-Jun Green, Kelly
- 14-Jun Colon, Dino
- 17-Jun Sagrestano, Lynn
- 19-Jun Dehner, Eugene
- 26-Jun Heebner, Laura

July

- 3-Jul Gingrich, Ken, Jr.
- 3-Jul Kocher, Miriam
- 3-Jul Ziegler, Ernie
- 5-Jul Detweiler, Dorene
- 11-Jul Harbove, Dave
- 12-Jul Rittenhouse, Dottie
- 14-Jul Fitzgerald, Verna
- 16-Jul Schuettrumpf, Linda
- 16-Jul Weidler, Joe, II
- 19-Jul Payne, Walt
- 20-Jul Dehner, Evelyn
- 26-Jul Harbove, Anne
- 29-Jul Calabria, Phil

If any birthdays are missing, please advise me and it will be corrected.
Editor

Penn Notes

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!”**



Contributors to this News Letter are wanted. So if you have anything of interest to Barbershoppers send it to me. The **deadline** is the **15th** of the month.



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
Board Members..... David Baraff, Al Pasquale, Tom Telford

Musical Director..... Anne Bureau
Golden Pennsmen Director... Don Detweiler

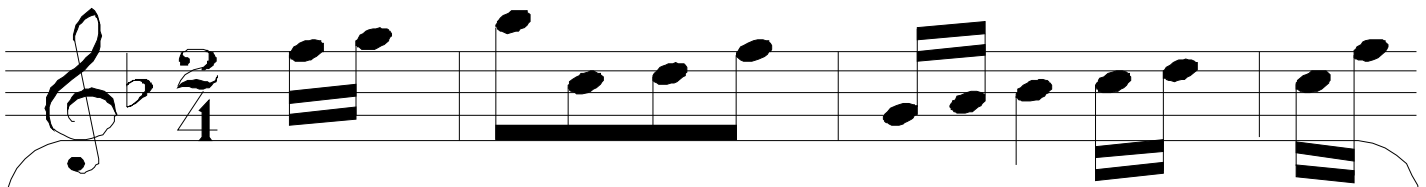
Meetings

Tuesday Nights, 7:00 p.m.
Central Schwenkfelder Church
Valley Forge Road, Worcester, Pa.

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Lansdale, PA 19446-0755
(215) 393-1940

<http://www.harmonize.com/NorthPennsmen/>

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