



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

Join Us In Song!



The SCORE



Meetings on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at Simpson United Methodist Church



Vol. 22, No. 10

December 2005

Thoughts from Joe Richeson

Calendar

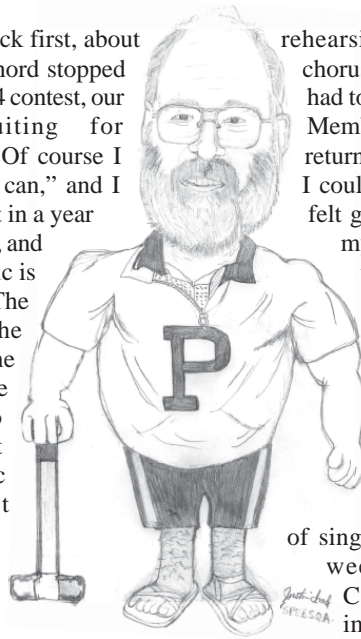
Administrative Board will meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M.

- Dec 5 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- Dec 11 (su) Christmas Show – 2:30
- Dec 16 (fr) Komet Hockey – Coliseum
- Dec 19 (mo) Music Team 6:00 Simpson
- Jan 7-8 COTS – Columbus, IN
- Jan 9 (mo) Annual Banquet – New Officers
- Jan 16 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- Jan 22 (mo) Music Team 5:30 Simpson
- Feb 6 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- Feb 13-14 Singing Valentines
- Feb 20 (mo) Music Team 5:30 Simpson
- Feb 20 (mo) Coaching – R. Schwartzkopf
- Mar 11 (sa) Board Meeting 8:00 AM
- Mar 17-19 Cardinal Conv – Columbus
- Mar 27 (mo) Coaching – R. Schwartzkopf
- Apr 10 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- Apr 17 (mo) Music Team 5:30 Simpson
- Apr 29 (sa) Spring Show – Scottish Rite
- May 8 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- May 21 (su) Embassy Follies
- May 22 (mo) Music Team 5:30 Simpson
- Jun 12 (mo) Board Meeting 5:30 Simpson
- Jun 16-17 Chorus Retreat – Manchester
- Jun 16-17 Coaching – R. Schwartzkopf
- Jun 26 (mo) Music Team 5:30 Simpson

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Lets roll the clock back first, about a year. Before the last chord stopped ringing from the Fall 2004 contest, our director was recruiting for commitments for 2005. Of course I said, "Yes, if I possibly can," and I meant it. I also knew that in a year a lot of conflicts can arise, and some trump others. Music is my hobby, and I love it. The friends I've made in the chorus mean a lot to me too. Once you've made the commitment to personal improvement and contributing to public performances, you don't want to back out.



Around June, I became aware that I had a conflict on October 1. It was a family vs. chorus type conflict, the kind you dread having to resolve. For a month or so I tried to make it go away, hoping that I could somehow do both, or that one would mercifully step aside. No luck. Nuts.

I told the director I would not be able to make the contest date. I hated saying it. Now I had a new challenge: how to approach the chorus for the rest of the Summer. I could make all the rehearsals, I could attend the retreat, I could do the Summer shows, I could even do all the church gigs. Still I knew that no matter how much I contributed to these, that the "big event" was going unanswered. It became harder to focus on much needed improvements for contest, when I knew I wouldn't be there. Still, I focused on all the little technical things, tried to make my own progress, and struggled on how to best serve the chorus' interests.

rehearsing the contest pieces with the chorus. For better or worse, my friends had to make the necessary adjustments. Members continued to encourage me to return and attend the contest, but I knew I could not. Every time I was asked, I felt gratified, but saddened. I knew in my heart I was doing what I needed to do, and was glad to do it, but still the feelings of being a traitor persisted.

Come September, all rehearsals were about the contest pieces. (Darktown Strutter's Ball) and (Love's Old Sweet Song) became like a mantra, enveloping every aspect of singing, even during the rest of the week, ringing in my head.

Choreography and singing improvements in the chorus were paramount. I asked our director on how I could help, but more or less started on my own. Where there were issues, ones that even I could spot with certainty, I brought them to the attention of whomever needed to hear it. I even went so far as to study each member for choreography and presentation and took notes. I had the time. I hoped I was making a difference. I so wanted "the boys" to do well, to compete for our leader and themselves, to know the exhilaration of a perfect performance, of a personal best, of a triumph. It's one thing to score well, to receive the approval of others. It's quite another to know without doubt that you just nailed a song, a chord or a move, and that everybody else did too. It's what I wanted for the chorus, and still what I was denying myself.

At the last rehearsal before going to Louisville, I intentionally did not attend. I felt

Around late August I had to cease

— continued on page 5

Thoughts from your President

Soon the Summit City Chorus will be beginning our 62 year of existence. It is always amazing to me how each year we have had new people elected to the Board of Directors and we have still survived. It is truly a diversified chorus.

I have tried to slowly get the leadership to be thinking more about the future of the Chorus and on what we want to do in the future. Not only one year in advance, but also two or three years down the road. As a result of this and the fact that we elect our new leadership in October, I thought it would be wise to have our planning day in November rather than wait until January. Mark and I collaborated and decided to return to the retreat style of planning instead of just a day. This would allow us to have more of a brain storming session.

So, on November 18 and 19 we had our leadership retreat and held it at Camp Lutherhaven. We began on Friday eve and watched a presentation on what is a chorus made up of. What kind of guys join a chorus? Then we reviewed the video "Singing Is Life" as a review of what we really are all about.

We then had a brain storming session to come up with ideas of things that we want to accomplish in 2006. Our goal was to come up with 30 different ideas to discuss later. When we were finished we had 69 items on our list. We then prioritized them by which items had

the highest priority.

On Saturday we then discussed these items starting with the highest priority. Needless to say we didn't quite get all of them solved, but we still have the list and may look at them again in a few months. We all felt like this list, as well as the list we accumulated from the whole Chorus, will help us do the things that are important to all of us.

Other items that were accomplished were a budget for the year 2006 and we listened to a grant writing presentation from Mr. Jon Dize from North Street Development Advisors.

All in all we had a great two days and plan on repeating it next year. Those of you that could not make it, try to plan on it next year. As a result of the grant presentation the Chorus has retained NSDA to pursue some grants in the year of 2006.

I want to thank all of you that have supported the Chorus this year. I think we have made great strides in our philosophy of singing and musicality. We need to continue to promote more Quartet singing in our chorus. So if you would like to be in a quartet, make it known to Mark or Dwight (our quartet coordinator) so that they can help put something together.

Remember, Singing Is Life, The Rest Is Just Details.

— Max Bell, President, Summit City Chorus

November Board Meeting

Summit City Chorus board meeting was held on November 7, 2005 at Simpson United Methodist Church. Those present: Max Bell, Dick Ellison, Vaughn Albert, Rod Severine, Bob Benner, Denis Cushman, Frank Luard, Bob Bowman, Ken Steffen, Al Schumm and Dwight Nash.

1. The Secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved.
2. Aaron Starkey approved for membership.
3. Tux deposits and detail lists of amounts held. Return of old members uniform. Max to write a letter of request. Uniform policy offered by Denis, requiring member signature as to the return and care of uniforms.
4. Tonight attendance award to be given. Winner to get 100 50/50 tickets. He can use 5 for each drawing.
5. Not getting advance notice of needs to present at practice business meetings. Max to pitch the Lutherhaven retreat.
6. Friday November 11 is cancelled. Got no response from Hilger.

7. New repertoire is set for '06. Tapes ordered from Tony DeRosa.
8. New calendar distributed. Jan 9, 2006 is installation of new officers. Afterglow meal was discussed.
9. Grant monies was presented from Jon Dize.
10. Reimbursement for riser transportation was discussed.
11. Request from RCR for helping with expenses to Sacramento.

Happy December Birthdays

- Larry Merriman Dec 3
- Jason Block Dec 3
- Richard Ellison Dec 5
- David Thomas Dec 10
- Brad Pape Dec 30

Summit City Chorus Hotline
260-625-2299

Chapter Leadership

President Max Bell
 Membership VP Denis Cushman
 Program VP Bob Benner
 Music & Performance Vaughn Albert
 Public Relations Al Schumm
 Secretary Dick Hamilton
 Treasurer Rod Severine

Board Member Dwight Nash
 Board Member Chris Piano
 Board Member Frank Luard

Chorus Manager Bob Bowman
 Show Chairman Chris Piano
 Chorus Librarian Bob Bowman
 Bulletin Editor Ken Steffen
 Past President Dick Ellison

Musical Director Mark Leimer
 Assistant Music Director ... Keith Morphey
 Assistant Music Director Jeff Albert

THE SCORE

EDITOR:

Ken Steffen

109 Hillcrest Drive • Bluffton, IN 46714
Home (260) 824-3594 • Fax (260) 824-4000
Email – thedutchmill@adamswells.com

FEATURE EDITOR:

Paul Snyder

PHOTO JOURNALIST:

Delores Morphey

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT:

Ken Steffen

SCORE is the publication of the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Chapter of the Cardinal District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Unless carrying a by-line, articles have been written by the editor.

We encourage contributions from our members. Such contributions reflect the individual opinions of their author and not necessarily the opinions of the members or officers of this chapter.



Bob Benner, Gary Norem, Denis Cushman

And the Winner is...

Well the mystery is finally over. Last week we rewarded one of our fellow barbershoppers for having one of the best attendance records over the last six months. And the winner is...Gary Norem. (A big round of applause, if you please.) Gary was one of eleven individuals who qualified for the Grand prize, which was 100 "50/50" tickets.

As you may (or may not) remember, the AAP contest has been going on since our Spring show, and was designed to entice guys to continue coming to Chapter meetings, even during our "off peak" season. Well some guys are real winners in this regard. The 11 gentlemen who qualified for this contest had over 85% attendance.

Not bad for just having to show up, huh? It's just that easy!! All you have to do is show up and be there before 8pm! Isn't that what it's pretty much about...just showing up? Well in this case, it is. Of course that doesn't account for showing up **prepared**. That's a whole 'nuther category. And only YOU can determine whether you're a winner there. But that's a different contest!

I also want to give honorable mention to the other 10 guys that qualified for this award. Kudos go to Jim Ash, Rich Bucher, Jeff Goshorn, Greg Graber, Duane Johnson, Garry Pape, Ralph Pierce, Dave Reiff and Paul Snyder.

Now for the number crunchers out there, I have to caveat the number above because the Chapter leadership (note names on inside cover of the Score) are ineligible. (Mostly 'cause we're expected to be there.) That would have added another 9 names to the pot. So out of 52 active members we had a total of 20 showing up AND showing up on time. HMMMMMM...I'll let you do the math. Quite frankly, (work and family commitments notwithstanding) I'd like to see a little higher percentage over the next 6 months – are you up for the challenge? Oh, and by the way...Gary is eligible to win THAT too.

In the picture above, Bob Benner on the left, is the keeper of the can for the 50/50 drawing. In the middle is Gary Norem, who is draped with 50/50 tickets, and Denis Cushman, VP of Membership, is on the right.

— Denis Cushman, Membership VP

A Man of his Word

It was several weeks before the Fall Convention weekend when I learned that Joe Richeson, one of SCC's better Bass singers, would not be with SCC in Louisville. It was the final hour of a Monday practice. Director Mark Leimer had just asked those singers not going to Louisville to step off the risers. When Joe stepped down, I was surprised. I thought he had worked as hard as anyone to be ready for this competition. I wondered why would he not be going. I learned later he would be in West Lafayette at the Purdue/Notre Dame football game the day of the chorus competition. Then I remembered. He had told me one time when we were talking that he had made a commitment to attend all Purdue home games with his wife. That left no doubt where he'd be on Convention weekend. Joe is a man of his word.

At the next SCC practice, Joe surprised me again. He was present. I had assumed since he couldn't be with SCC in Louisville, he would not be at any more practices. I knew he really wanted to compete with the chorus but it wasn't going to happen because of the Purdue game being the same day.

Joe not only attended the remaining practices but he also contributed. Even though he sat on a chair he actively encouraged and supported all the singers on the risers. I really appreciated his positive attitude and the feedback he personally voiced to the chorus as we practiced our two contest songs. It was apparent Joe was doing everything he could to help us succeed. On behalf of the 38 men that were on stage in Louisville, I thank Joe for his help. I believe his effort and support made a difference.

— P.E.S.

December Board Meeting

Summit City Chorus board meeting was held on December 5, 2005 at Simpson United Methodist Church. Those present: Max Bell, Al Schumm, Frank Luard, Vaughn Albert, Dick Ellison, Dick Hamilton, Keith Morphew, Rod Severine, Dwight Nash, and Ken Steffen.

1. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

2. New trailer is being investigated.
3. Voice taping program is going forward.
4. Learning tapes have arrived.
5. Coaching for the chorus is in place.
6. Lawn signs for the show are in the ground. Senior Life ad and picture are in present publication. Letters went out to high school music teachers with free tickets. WLDE

and WOWO radio are giving away 10 free tickets to the show. Promo video set up and viewed. Monies were authorized to pay for same.

7. Mike Wedler, Al Johnson and Ed Bowman were voted on and approved.
8. Met with John Dize and discussed the list of items that are needed to apply for a grant.



Editorial

Our wonderful "Sounds of Christmas" was very well received and has come and gone. There are so many to thank for the Christmas show, but a special thanks has got to be handed to Chris Piano.

We are now faced with Christmas parties, having friends over, and the dreaded Christmas shopping.

It irritates me to no end that the huge stores won't let the workers say Merry Christmas, and force them to say Happy Holidays. At first I want to say, "well I'll just go someplace else to shop," but you would be hard pressed to find another store of any size that this does not occur.

I sure would not want to force my religion on anyone else, but if they are selling things for Christmas, it seems that they should give credit to where credit is due, and honor to where honor is due.

I'll get off of my soap box now, and just wish everyone that reads this publication a very Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.

I would also like to thank everyone that has written an article, took pictures, and most of all read this paper. I need to say a special thanks to my staff: Paul Snyder, my feature editor; Delores Morphew, my photo journalist; and Wayne Steffen at Print Source, for saving me from printing mistakes from time to time. I really enjoy doing it, and your constant comments make my job easier and more enjoyable. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

— ken

Taping for Shut-ins

On Sunday, November 13, twenty-something SCC singers assembled at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne to tape songs for use by Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. on their weekly Worship for Shut-Ins telecast.

Led by Director Mark Leimer and Assistant Director Keith Morphew, the tux-clad singers taped three Christmas hymns and two inspirational numbers which will be edited and made available for future broadcasts.

Also two SCC quartets, *Hoosier Gentry* and *River City Rhythm*, taped a number of songs for use on future "Shut-In" telecasts. It was February 2004 when SCC last taped for WFS at Holy Cross. I'm happy to say

Come One ~ Come All
to the
"Annual Installation of Officers / Awards Banquet"
on
Monday, January 9, 2006.

Dinner will be served at 6:30p.m. (yes, lots of pie) and will include KFC Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, baked beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, desserts, coffee, and canned sodas.

After dinner the new Officers for 2006 will be installed, followed by performances by our chapter Quartets and Chorus.

All this, plus Awards and Door Prizes, for only \$7.50 per chorus member and for each adult guest.

The dinner will be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 2320 Broadway at Creighton (lower level dining room).

Please see Brenda Gossett or Delores Morphew for tickets by Jan 2, 2006.

We Have Mail

Dear Paul (Snyder),

Thanks very much for the newsy letter and all the articles in the Score. I am glad to participate in the patronage with the enclosed check. I doubt if I'll be able to make it to the show.

Lorraine has a lot of problems. I have fully recovered back to 200 pounds from a low of 142 pounds two years ago.

I have been singing with Angola Pitchpipers but don't have the physical stamina to participate with you guys. Keep up the good performances. I saw your picture in the Harmonizer. I hope to visit some Monday.

Kordsmatically,
Carl Bauman



Ed Bowman

BIO of Ed Bowman

Ed has been married to Nancy for 42 years. He just recently retired from Quality Inns as their sales manager. He has a floral business that he runs from his home called Exquisite Designs. He has made many boutonnieres for our chorus and when Ed makes things, you know that are made right! He just decorated the huge Christmas tree on Broadway with his brother and his family.

Ed and Nancy have a son, Brian, who is a CPA, and a daughter, Lori. They also have three granddaughters.

Ed loves to sing solos, duets and trios, and is very active in the choir at St. Michael's Lutheran Church where there are six praise groups. He has always loved to sing ever since he was in the first grade in school.

Ed was a former member of the Summit City Chorus, and now decided that he has more time, so he is singing with us again. We are very glad to have him back.

that two very recent additions to our roster sang with the chorus this time (initials are AJ and WY). Thanks to SCC member Al Schumm who helped make the arrangements with Paul Melin, Program Director, to allow Summit City Chorus and the quartets to contribute to this Christian ministry. Also thank you to all the singers and to our directors Mark and Keith. A special thanks to both Vaughn Albert who directed and Bruce Hagen who sang the solo on (Birthday of a King).

The WFS program is aired on Channel 21 on Sunday at 6:30 AM and on Comcast Channel 55 on Sunday at 4:00 PM and Monday at 4:00 PM.

— P Snyder and A Schumm

Memorizing a Song

Seen in the New Yorker. **George Trigg**, editor, from an article by **Merrill Miller**, *Minneapolis Commodores*

Memorization involves three aspects: commitment, a method, and a formula. Nothing is memorized until and unless you *decide* to do it. Until you consciously try to commit it to memory, it won't happen. That's *commitment*.

Each of us has the same number of hours in the day to spend in some manner. Assign a priority to memorizing and put this activity ahead of something else. Give yourself a reasonable deadline.

Some good methods are: (a) putting the music down as soon and as often as possible when the song is being taught; (b) writing the lyrics over and over until it can be done perfectly *three* times in a row; (c) taping the song, then playing it while driving, riding, waiting, or whatever.

Several formulas might be helpful: (a) learn the *form* first—e.g. intro-verse-chorus-tag; (b) pay particular attention to *first words* of phrases, ending words of preceding phrases; (c) learn the *story line*—how does it begin and end, and what is the sequence of happenings; (d) identify which significant notes, words, swipes, etc. are *repeated exactly* in different places in the song – conversely, what things happen *differently* in similar places; finally, (e) notice what *other voices* are doing when they are not using the same rhythm or words as yours.



THOUGHTS FROM JOE RICHESON

continued from page 1 —

that even attending this last session was maybe not appropriate, or maybe I was just avoiding the stress. I prayed.

On October 1, 2005, I was with my family and some of my dearest friends, attending the event that at the moment was a great joy, and simultaneously a great conflict. I alternately immersed myself in the moment, and then thought, "I wonder how the boys are doing?" Joy and torture had been constant companions for the last month, and I was looking forward to divorcing them after the weekend was over. I knew that like any divorce, it would take some time. At the end of the day, I knew the scoring was complete. With a phone call I learned that the chorus beat our target, and once again came in fourth. I was so very proud of them, happy that they did so well, and also sad that I was not directly a part of it.

After the contest weekend, the Monday rehearsal was all a chatter of what we did, what

"they" did, and scoring details. Hello joy. Torture? You still here?

I now felt the need to reintegrate back into the chorus. Probably mostly in my own mind, but it felt weird to step back on the risers that night, a mixture of the loved and the estranged. It passed quickly.

Looking back on it, I was blessed to be torn between the two events, either one I'm lucky to be a part of. I also know that when you become committed to more than one thing in your life, conflicts arise, and they will arise again from time to time. I'm still learning on how to deal with that. In the mean time, I'll reach out again for personal betterment, and chasing the thrill of performance.

p.s. — Joe asked me to edit this article, but for the life of me, I couldn't leave out a single word. Joe is a great bass singer, and a super addition to our chorus.
— ken

HOOSIER GENTRY
Barbershop Quartet
Dave Bob Duane Vaughn

Bob Bowman
3109 Southwin Drive
Fort Wayne, In. 46816

260 447-4115
hoosiergentry@comcast.net

River City
Rhythm

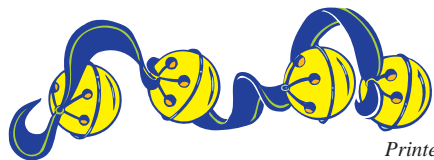
DAN JOHNSON-LEAD CARL SIPE-BASS
260-458-2169 (Bus) DAVE REIFF-TENOR
260-749-5636 (Home) TOM SCHADEN-BARI

THOSE GUYS
BARBERSHOP QUARTET
HARMONY

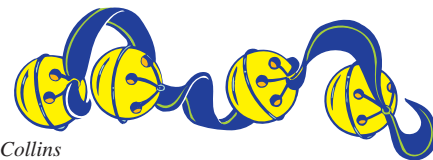
Brian Al
Dwight Max

Fort Wayne, Indiana
260 486-5875
Thoseguys_97@yahoo.com

Chris Piano
Barber Shopper
of the Year
2004



(Jingle Bells)



Printed from *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* by Ace Collins

(Jingle Bells) is perhaps the most well-known, most sung Christmas carol in America. For millions, this simple little song is as much a part of Christmas as Santa, reindeer, greeting cards, family dinners, evergreen trees, mistletoe, and presents. Yet in one of the season's greatest ironies, (Jingle Bells) does not contain a single reference to the holiday with which it is associated and was actually written for a completely different day of celebration.

Medford, Mass. native James S. Pierpont had always shown a great deal of musical talent. As a child he not only sang in church, but played the organ. As an adult, Pierpont continued to assist his father, the pastor of Medford's Unitarian church, by working with the choirs and musicians. Around 1840 young Pierpont was given the assignment to write special music for a Thanksgiving service. As James sat in his father's home at 87 Mystic Street

contemplating his chore, through a window he watched young men riding their sleds down a hill. Bundling up to ward off the extremely cold weather, Pierpont stepped outside. Caught up in the moment, recalling the many times he had raced sleds and sleighs sporting bands of merry, jingling bells, he not only watched, but also began to root for the participants. Within an hour he was congratulating the day's winner.

As he stepped back into the house, a melody came to him; while he warmed himself by the fireplace, James hummed the little ditty. As he sat down at the old piano and worked out the melody, Mrs. Waterman, who had the only piano in town, carefully listened, then said, "That is a merry little jingle you have there."

The fully harmonized arrangement of (One Horse Open Sleigh) was presented at the annual Thanksgiving service and since it went over so

well, the choir performed it again at the Christmas service.

He found a publisher for the song in 1857, yet it was not until 1864 that James truly understood he had written something special. By then, the song was fast becoming one of the most popular carols in New England. Within twenty years, (Jingle Bells) was probably the best-known caroling song in the country.

Today (Jingle Bells) seems to be everywhere. Even though few people have even seen a one-horse open sleigh, millions have jingle bells hanging from their doors at Christmas. Most paintings of Santa show jingling bells adorning his reindeer, and scores of holiday songs and television commercials begin with the jingle of bells. Thanks to James Pierpont and a Thanksgiving request, when people see a picture of snow and a horse-drawn sleigh, their first thought is of Christmas.

Milestones in History – Judging of Contests

By: David Wright from his *History of Barbershop* — Part 10 of 10

1993 — The International Board approved a new system consisting of three equally weighted categories: Music, singing, and Presentation. The categories were designed to be less confined and more overlapping, thus allowing each judge to experience the total performance. Time limits were eliminated. The new system commenced in the fall of '93.



Ken Steffen
109 Hillcrest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714

260-824-3594 (H)

To Barbershopper:

**1993
Buckeye
Invitational
Champion**

1985, 1988, 1993 & 2003
District Chorus Champs