

CHIMO CHIRPS



August, 2008. Bulletin # 14

Meetings - Monday night at the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, 2319 Louise St., Saskatoon, SK. 7:30 p.m.

Web Site: www.harmonize.com/saskatoon

Welcome back to our favorite hobby night. We hope everyone has enjoyed a beautiful summer at the lake, or in the magnificent B.C. mountains or travelling our lush prairies.

We also want to welcome recent additions to our membership. **Al Trimble** - Lead, is now a two year man and who comes to us with a long musical background. **Don MacFarlane** - Lead, is starting his second year, and **Lyle Boswell** - Tenor, is planning to transfer from the Lethbridge chapter. It's great to see these new faces. We hope to also see more of our members back in action who have missed some practices in recent times. So - This is a reminder to call up some of the fellas in your section. Our chorus manager will 'tune' us in on up coming events and song lists.

Notes from the Chorus Manager..... Erv Dueck

It is interesting that in our Barbershop chapter we actually end up with two "new years" events. That is, we have the usual "**January the first**" New Years event - but we actually get another event each year too. This year it happens on **August 11th**. That's the date where we start another "new year" of singing and another new year of participating in this very satisfying Barbershop activity. You all remember that we had another satisfying Spring Show last April 25th. Then prior to our summer break we used the 7 or 8 Monday nights in May & June staying motivated by working on a new list of chorus songs that Levi selected for our review. Some were new, some were old repertoire songs (...for some), and some other songs sounded familiar but with new

arrangements which we now plan to use. This was done not only to stay busy, but also to get ourselves ready for the **FALL BARBERSHOP SHOW- Nov.3/08**.

Our 'other' new year has now begun, so let's get ourselves in the mood to kick-off another new year of fun, fellowship and *f-f-fantastic* harmony. Please encourage your friends and "seat-mates" (*in your row*), to show up regularly every Monday night. **Keep a "standing reservation" for all Monday nights as your chorus practice nights. It is the best way to ensure the success of the Chordsmen.**

So what's in store for us? Well, we will be preparing for the Fall Barbershop Show because it's been a very successful event for the past 2 years and should be continued, and we'll be taking part in our usual performances prior to Christmas. We may even consider the November 11th event again, even though many are not that pleased with our "chorus position" singing at the Remembrance Day event.

(I don't expect to be able to change much for that morning in November but we should at least stay ready - we may decide to do it.)

These three events involve a fairly long list of songs. The Fall Show song list has been added for your information, and a separate repertoire list is also shown in the next column.



FALL BARBERSHOP SHOW - Nov.3 /08

Let's Sing A Little Barbershop [*1st Draft*]
Let's Sing A Little Barbershop..... (BPP-24)**I**
Love That Old Barbershop Style
Hear That Swanee River Cry
There'll Be No New Tunes
Darkness On The Delta
Down Mobile..... (JPB-11)
After Dark..... (JPB-3)
The Sidewalks of New York... (JPB-19)
Down By The Old Mill Stream... (PC-16)
Sweet and Lovely..... (PC-6)
Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie..... (PC-4)
Daddy Sang Bass A
Little Talk With Jesus
Honey/Little 'Lize Medley..... (PC-9)**Let**
Me Call You Sweetheart..... (PC-10)
You're the Flower....Sweet Adeline... (PC-15)
Teach the Children to Sing
This Little Light of Mine / Do Lord, medley

CODE : (BPP-24) = *Barbershop Potpourri* (pg.24)
 (JPB-11) = *Just Plain Barbershop* (pg.11)
 (PC-16) = *BarberPole Cat* (pg.16)

An alphabetical list of songs for the Chorus to learn: (*check your folder to be sure you have the music*)

Alexander's Ragtime Band
 A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square
 Auld Lang Syne / I Love You Truly
 Bye Bye Blues
 Climb Every Mountain
 Five Foot Two
 From the First Hello
 I Only Have Eyes For You
 I Want A Girl
 I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles
 Irish Blessing
 Just A Little Street
 One More Song
 Somebody Stole My Gal
 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
 There's A New Gang on the Corner
 They All Call It Canada
 Wagon Wheels
 When I'm Sixty-Four
 Whispering
 Who'll Dry Your Tears

A History Brief - for new members

The Barbershop Harmony Society, as it now called, is the world's largest fraternal singing organization. It was formerly referred to as SPEBSQSA, (The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.), and is the North American male organization of barbershop singers, encompassing over 32,000 men throughout the world. The international headquarters of the **Harmony Society** is now located in Nashville, TN. In North America the women's barbershop organizations are "The Sweet Adelines" and "Harmony Inc."

There are sixteen barbershop districts throughout North America, with chapters located in hundreds of cities and towns. Many chapters participate in Society competitions, and most put on a parade of "meetings" where singing is the primary focus. They attend district events that deal with their international activities in a variety of ways. The international office is *Harmony Marketplace*, where a staff of knowledgeable people directs the activities of the organization and its music, and is its source of supplies, instruction material and music. The *Old Songs Library*, located at society headquarters is the world's largest collection of vocal sheet music and is a museum of barbershop history. Barbershop conventions are on a District and International level and are held annually. These conventions provide opportunities to fraternize with other barbershoppers and their families and to compete as choruses and quartets.

The Barbershop Harmony Society began in the late 1930's when Rupert Hall and O.C. Cash, two businessmen from Tulsa, Oklahoma, were storm-stayed in Kansas City. They got to talking and discovered they each missed the fellowship that popular quartet singing provided, but was fading in the face of recorded and radio broadcast music. (it used to be that for a song to become popular, it had to be sing-able for folks to enjoy it). The next week they invited their friends to a meeting. They discussed their ideas, enjoyed the singing, and decided to establish a group.

The singing society was incorporated in Oklahoma. News media got wind of the organization and it mushroomed. The founders had membership cards printed. Everyone who contacted them with an interest in the music or the organization received a membership card by return mail. The long SPEBSQSA acronym, which would outdo any government acronym was selected. Gradually the group became organized and its membership grew steadily.

Barbershop music was documented in the 1500's in England and gradually evolved. It became very popular among the performing and recording quartets early this century. It was a very common kind of folk music in the barber shops of America when these establishments were the male meeting places of the town. Men came to get a haircut, be shaved, take a Saturday bath, play a bit of pool and look at "The Police Gazette". They gossiped and transacted business – and sang! They were often called "tonsorial parlors" for that reason.

The four parts of barbershop harmony consists of the lead who sings the melody, the tenor who harmonizes above the lead line, and the bass who sets the foundation of the chord. The baritone fills in the leftover harmonic notes, which makes the barbershop chord so unique. It is said that the lead singer is the personality of the quartet, the bass is its engine, the tenor makes the sparkle and the baritone lends the dignity. The four parts of close barbershop harmony are a magical blend.

THE SASKATOON CHIMO CHORDSMEN CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF HARMONY

Saskatoon was first introduced to barbershop harmony, not 35 years ago, but about 50 years ago. The Saskatoon Chapter as it was then called, got its charter in 1958. The members were successful in making a few public appearances, including two annual shows. Membership reached 42 by 1963.

However, the financial struggle for existence proved too much and the chorus discontinued six years after it first began. An attempt to revive the chapter about 10 years later started the wheels in motion to form what is now the well-established

Saskatoon Chimo Chordsmen of today. Twenty-one men signed on for the licensing application and the chapter received its new charter 35 years ago on April 5, 1973.

Over the years the chapter faced many challenges especially with regard to the financial struggles and uncertainty of maintaining a steady supply of music directors. This uncertainty contributed strongly to a widely fluctuating chorus membership. By 1983 however, chorus size had grown to 83 members and it enjoyed active participation in its district competitions and shows under the direction of Gareth Evans. But again, after his departure and the uncertainty of available long term music leadership, it dropped below 30 by 1990. As a result the chorus was unable to present its annual show for years 1991 to 1993.

Nevertheless, these struggles with the chapter provided challenging opportunities and the members have experienced many wonderful, exciting and rewarding moments and events. The arrival of Dick Wells from the Winnipeg chapter, as musical director, and the subsequent production of a top notch musical product made for renewed vigour. The chapter presented a Spring Show every year during his leadership and reached a membership of 69 in 2000. Since then the chorus has produced 15 consecutive annual spring shows which were held in such venues as high school theatres and in the former Centennial Auditorium. They are now held at Circle Drive Alliance Church Auditorium.

<u>Chorus Musical Directors</u>	<u>Years as Director</u>
Frank Strange	1972 -1976 (5)
Les Ennis	1977 - 1982 (6)
Gareth Evans	1983 - 1986 (4)
Ron Knoll	1987 - 1989 (3)
Roy Proctor	1990 - 1992(3)
Dick Wells	1993 - 2001 (9)
Steve Fish & Carol Hanson	2002 - 2006 (5)
Steve Fish	2007 (1)
Levi Borisenko	2008

In addition to the annual show, the chorus and its quartets are active in sing-outs at community club functions, churches, nursing homes and senior

residences, as well as making guest appearances at annual Remembrance Day services and Christmas Festivals. In addition, for 28 years the chapter performed in the Festival of Carols at Third Avenue United Church, from 1974 to 2002.

The chapter supports several charities through the Society’s Harmony Foundation, as well as local charities like the Sask. Abilities Council, the Saskatchewan Choral Federation and various other music education and related organizations. In the fall of 2002, we established our innovative “Young Men In Harmony” program, a workshop which promotes barbershop style singing among music educators and younger members of our community, mainly high school students.

We also started our “Singing Valentines” program ten years ago. The month of February often is referred to as Heart Month, so we teamed up with the Heart and Stroke Foundation as our charitable recipient for this fun-filled event. As well, we participate in the Campbell Soup Co. label-collection program, accumulating “label points” for three local educational groups who use these points to purchase specialized equipment for their particular organizations.

The Chapter offers musical training to its members by encouraging participation in the Society’s Harmony College workshops and conferences such as COTS, (Chapter Officer Training Seminars), and mini-HEPs, (Harmony Education Programs) organized by Society’s Land O’Lakes District. The members receive many benefits from the Society, especially with regards to availability of music and resource material from its extensive music library. As well, each member receives Society and District magazines and publications to keep up-to-date with the “Barbershop World”. The Chapter also publishes its own monthly Bulletin. Chapter membership includes men from all walks of life, from their 20’s to over 80 in age, and the fellowship that develops is second to none. After all, the members are men of song.

Larry Hanna

The Saskatoon CHIMOCHORDSMEN

2008 Chapter Executive and Board

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Wardrobe	Carl Bungay
Music Librarian	Gord McDonald
Coffee Mate	Wayne Davis
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Come and sing your heart out. Welcome one another and lets make life worth living with some laughs and some good old wood-shedding.

Your friendly Bulletin Editor
Ray Penny