

CHIMO CHIRPS



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

Web Site: www.harmonize.com/saskatoon

What A SHOW !

Well, that was a good one, so let it be written ! Here's a summary of what most of us felt about the successful 2008 show at the Circle Drive Alliance Church April 25th.

The *quality* and *intensity* of sound was better than ever, thanks to the efforts by the sound man, Erwin's direction and the focus on tune up and throughout each selection. Levi's directing was relaxed and positive which I believe 'set the stage' for good sound. Some claimed that we *ROCKED* and that the chorus *blended* well. Most were *impressed* and were *pleasantly surprised*. One young fan was heard to respond to his grandfather "you were *AWESOME* grandpa". Some folks liked the *format*, as in alternating the local quartets with the chorus numbers. Our guest quartet FALL CREEK were very well received although a few *more numbers* would have been better. We ought to request at least 35 minutes from future headliners. The Marion Graham Young Men's choir was also a *hit*. It was refreshing to see and hear their enthusiasm. They were certainly well managed. Some folks may have expressed a view that our \$20 admission is *overpriced*, however that has been countered by the fact that very few customers had questioned it. Instead some asked if the price was \$25, since it was *not included* on the poster. That should be noted for the future.

There are some further details that should be checked out for next year. The numerous steps should be *color taped* to avoid a potential dangerous situation. More attention should be given to *discipline* and to hold our positions after

the closing selection in the event that the audience would wish to respond with a *final applause*. This looks unprofessional and should be stressed several times and especially at dress rehearsal. We need some improvement getting *off and on* the risers, since an orderly traffic flow appears most professional. Also a commercial *photographer* should be present prior to show time with everyone present. *Communication* needs some attention but for special jobs such as clean up, a commitment one on one works best, otherwise the old cliché clicks in "Let George do it". Paid help would be a better solution for *moving risers*. The show manager should be able to *delegate* and to follow up to be sure things are getting done in timely manner. A *jobs list* ought to be made up many months in advance of the show. A Friday night is not the best date because of school recitals and the like. To avoid those late snow storms, an early May show night might be considered. *Free tickets* should be restricted to donations of over \$100. Please take these suggestions and comments as constructive criticism. Thank you all.



Ken Stephenson & Ray Penny
are two of eight barbershoppers who were **charter members** in 1973, for the newly formed Chimo Chordsmen Chorus. That was 35 years ago !

Spring Show 2008

A report from the Show Chairman

So..., what happens now? It was a satisfying feeling many of us had almost immediately following the 2008 Show and Afterglow, and we picked up a few more good memories as a result of the presentation of another 'winner' on April 25th. Many in our audience had some real nice compliments about the show and especially with the addition of the enthusiastic young singers from Marion Graham.

There are many people who continue to show their support and they have already been acknowledged for their efforts. There were 5 people like **Carl, Larry, Ken, Archie** and **John** who were directly involved with the actual show production. There were those 15 others like **Chuck, Ray, Merv, Bob, Larry, Ken** and **Ken, Frank, Frank** and **Frank, John, Al, Archie** and **Don**, who raised over \$4,000 in advertising revenue. Of course, we had **Levi** who worked tirelessly to prepare us musically; thankfully we had **Dick** once again, to fine-tune us on the finer points of achieving musical harmony; there was **Jay Wilson** our MC for the past 4 consecutive shows; we won't forget the **four quartets**, plus the **Jug-band-9** who added a bit of variety to the chorus show; and we also must include the **27 young men** and **Tracy K.** from Marion Graham who added to the on-stage head count. If you do the math we almost had 70 people on stage and that is quite an achievement for us. CONGRATULATIONS ALL - for a job well done!

The one area that often prompted suggestions for improvements had always been "the sound" and this time we received only compliments about it. I agree that this year our production was indeed blest with good sound production that reached into all areas of the auditorium. The balance and sound quality was excellent.

Most satisfying for me was that the CDAC technicians were very cooperative and willing to respond to suggestions from us during the Thursday night mic-tests. Also on the Friday morning, when Fallcreek requested more fine-tuning and sound adjustments everything was done willingly and competently.

The service we received over the past three years from CDAC administration staff and their technicians has always been satisfying, but this year it must be described as outstanding. We should be very grateful to CDAC for providing such a pleasant venue for our annual spring shows.

So, you ask, "**What happens now**"?

Let's get ready for the Brandon mini-HEP in June and for the chorus sing-out scheduled for May 16th. Hopefully, we won't let ourselves slump into complacency by just not bothering to show up for the next 7 Monday nights before taking our summer break. We've got a great chorus and we proved to ourselves we can learn new songs and sing them very well, in that Barbershop style.

Each time we perform - whether for a spring show or a summer sing-out - we want that same level of commitment and dedication that we've shown since the end of February.

Let's keep it going for the rest of the year!

The plans for the chorus include the period between now and June 30th. Then after the summer break in mid-August we will prepare for the Fall Barbershop Show. This mini-show has been a successful event for the past 2 years and it should be continued. We will certainly find a few performances during Christmas, and we should consider the November 11th event too.

We have developed a new list of chorus songs that Levi has selected for your review – some new, some old repertoire songs (*for some*), and some that may sound familiar but are a new arrangement which we now plan to use. That list was circulated last week and we'll be using that list of songs to prepare the chorus for the events that are coming up. So there is a lot to do and we'll be staying very active until the end of June.

Please keep reserving all your Monday nights as your chorus practice nights. It is the best way to ensure the success of the Chordsmen.

Erwin Dueck