



The

# Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet singing in America, Inc.

Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

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## Coaching sessions make a difference: Two sessions -- new chorus!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

This summer has been a boom time for the Green Mountain Chorus, as we have had the extraordinary experience of having multiple coaching sessions, not only multiple times but by multiple coaches.

Since spring, we have had the privilege of being coached by Dan Signor, a certified judge as well as professional music teacher. Perhaps it is his experience with middle school students that makes it easy to impart music skills to the men of our chorus. In any event he does have a knack of imparting his knowledge to our singers.

By appealing to those who learn by seeing, feeling, doing and a few more techniques, he has been quite successful in getting what he wants from a chorus.

Dan has met with us only on two occasions but has made significant roads of improvement in our composite singing quality.

Assisting Dan has been Pat Heist who, with her kindly but insistent reminders, has managed to keep us on track. Thanks also to Pat for her assistance.

In addition to having Dan coach us twice, he will be returning on August 21 for, yet another session.

Two weeks ago, we were privileged to have our old friend, Karen Rourke, return to continue her coaching. For a flavor of what Karen was able to accomplish, read Greg Morrill's article on page four. Talk about "Sleepless in Stowe," this is some great stuff.

We always knew we could execute great singing, but rarely were able to perform at such a high level on demand. Well, folks, Lake Placid, "Here we come."

## Undertone 24th in International test

Your chapter bulletin finished in 24th place in the 2001 International Bulletin of the Year Contest. *Chips*, Hanover, New Hampshire's bulletin, edited by Roger Arend, finished in 15th place, after coming in second to the UT in the NED contest by two points.

The weakest category for our bulletin was in "Content" -- variety of articles, need we say more.

## Show Saturday in Troy for Jay Peak Association

This coming Saturday afternoon (8/10/02) we will present a two and a half hour concert starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Riverbend Bed and Breakfast in Troy, Vermont. From a chorus perspective, this show will be a virtual copy of our recent Annual Show and recent Package Shows. Warm\_up at the Riverbend Bed and Breakfast will start at 12:15 p.m. the "techie" call will be at 11:45 a.m. (Helpers are needed, see Charlie).

Car poolers should plan on leaving the Sheraton in South Burlington at 10:30 a.m. If you plan on car pooling, it would be wise to firm up plans tonight before you leave rehearsal.

To get to the Riverbend Bed and Breakfast from the Burlington area,, it is suggested you take Route 15 East, to Route 100C North, to Route 100 North. The Bed and Breakfast is on Route 100, 6/10 of a mile North of the town of Troy on the banks of

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## The Undertone

### 2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

A publication of the Burlington, Vermont Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit, charitable and educational organization, published each Tuesday on which a chapter meeting is scheduled.

Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

Deadline for copy is 9:00 p.m. Monday preceding each issue. Copy is accepted in the following order of preference: e-mail, IBM compatible 3.5 diskettes - WordPerfect or most any other word processor, ASCII text; binary files in the above formats by modem to editor's home phone; oral dictation by phone and, of course, hard copy.

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### Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

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Package Show Producer	Charlie Church

Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2001

Ed Bechtel

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

## Songlist for Troy Show 8/10/02

### "First Half"

Drinking Song .....	Chorus
The Whiffenpoof Song .....	Chorus
Singa-Tagga-Daya .....	Large Octet
We're Working Our Way Through College .....	CVQ
Oh, You Beautiful Doll .....	Chorus
Gaudeamus Igitur .....	Chorus
Lida Rose .....	High Voltage
Sweetheart of Sigma Chi .....	CVQ
You Gotta Be A Football Hero .....	High Voltage
Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A. ....	Chorus
Notre Dame Fight Song .....	The Dreamers
Moments To Remember .....	Chorus
Doin' The Racoon .....	Chorus
Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree .....	Chorus
Muskrat Ramble .....	Chorus
The Halls of Ivy.. .....	Chorus

### "Second Half"

The Lion Sleeps Tonight .....	Chorus
Hello Mary Lou .....	Chorus
Little Darlin' .....	CVQ + "Dad"
Bye, Bye, Love .....	Chorus
Once Upon A Time .....	Chorus
I Can't Give You Anything But Love .....	Chorus
God Bless America .....	Chorus & Quartets

### Music from page 3

appear to be well under control with script, MC, and quartet coverage. Only unresolved issue is a sound system set-er-upper / operator for Troy and Vergennes.

13. 2002/3 Repertoire was discussed and selected.

14. It was noted by that we should encourage all chapter members to attend to Montreal International Convention next year. Cut-off date for early registration is 7/15/02; reduced fee 1/1.

15. Next Music Team meeting - will be announced, but probably in Waterbury.

16. Four Voices won the International Quartet contest in Portland. So for the third year in a row, we will have the reigning quartet champs on our Annual Show.



# Music Committee notes for July

by **Charlie Church**, Music VP

1. The Music Team met last on June 13<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>. Most of this report consists of minutes of those meetings with updates for transpired dates.

2. Michael Herman has agreed to be Assistant Bass Section Leader.

3. Dan Signor was with us on June 19<sup>th</sup> for an exhilarating coaching session. Dan worked with us on the basics of good singing - concentrating on "Mr. Touchdown, USA", "I Can't Give You Anything but Love", and the "Star Spangled Banner". We allotted time for Dan to work with "Half Steps" but only one of them showed up. Chapter member attendance was excellent. The Karen Rourke session on July 23<sup>rd</sup> was outstanding as well.

Attendance again was excellent. We concentrated on "Mr. Touchdown, USA" and "I Can't Give You Anything but Love". Having a good base to start from, we were able to get into areas of vocal techniques where we had never trod before! We allotted time for Karen to work with "Half Steps" but they were "no shows".

4. The last summer coaching session is lined up with Dan Signor on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

5. The Music Team discussed/approved an action plan for Dan/Karen follow-up with Pat Heise coming to coaching sessions, taking notes, and working with us on a weekly basis over the summer. She will be working with us

while Greg/Chuck direct, could also encompass "one on ones" with sections and/or individuals. Time per week = no more than an hour and cost = none.

6. A Music Team member expressed a desire to have longer breaks at chapter meetings to socialize with the guys, have coffee/snacks, do chapter business, sing tags, sing with quartet, etc. We observed that breaks will most likely be longer once coffee, snacks start. C. Church was assigned to chat with J. Villere' about shortening the business meeting.

7. Gary Bolles will coming on Sept. 27/28; all chapter members to be should be thinking about a good venue; C. Church to send venue and hosts need to Undertone editor.

8. The two Fall Contest songs will be "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" & "Mr. Touchdown, USA"

9. 2003 Annual Show - "A Salute To The Buffalo Bills". Introduction schedule / time table for Chorus songs was initialized. "Alexander's Rag Time Band" was introduced on June 11<sup>th</sup> and "Happy Days Are Here Again" on June 25<sup>th</sup>. In change of approach this year, all the other six songs were briefly introduced in July. G. Morrill suggested this approach; felt it will give the guys a chance to hear the songs, understand how they go so that they may work independently with their Learning Tapes over the next year. The theory being that if

we introduce the last song only five weeks before show time, that will be all the time the guys spend on the songs. Formal "out of spots" dates will be set at the next Music Team meeting. G. Morrill noted that he should have contacted J. Villere before Learning Tape creation - on "Lucky Old Sun", the Tenors will sing the Bari part and the Bari's will sing either the Lead or Bass part.

10. CVQ volunteered to be the 2003 annual show Artistic Directors. We went over some show content ideas and relayed some thoughts from a recent Board meeting.

11. A well attended "Early Bird" sing-out was held on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Crest in Williston. And excellent chorus singing occurred at the Expos game on July 20<sup>th</sup>

12. Summer Package shows  
See **Music** page 2

**Troy** from page 1  
the Missisquoi River.

The sign\_up list is light – additional singers are desperately needed in the Lead section. The chorus costume will be the same as the Annual Show with "college" costumes in the first half and white tux shirt, black tux trousers, black shoes/socks and paisley vest and bow tie in the second half. Plan on bringing your hand props from the Annual Show. [Drinking mugs and whatever.] Dressing rooms will be available on the second floor of the B and B. Quartets are encouraged to embellish their costumes as they did on the Annual Show.

## DIRECTOR'S

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### Sleepless in Stowe

by Greg Morrill  
Music Director

After I got home from rehearsal the Tuesday following Karen Rourke's mini-retreat [July 23], I couldn't get to sleep! I was used to this feeling back when I used to play hockey in a couple of pick\_up leagues: you get so fired\_up by the activity that you can't just go home and go to sleep. However, rarely, if ever, have I come home from a barbershop rehearsal with that level of excitement!

I don't believe I have ever heard the chorus sing so well for an entire evening! Even before Karen worked her magic, you guys were already singing at a higher level than we typically reach on a Tuesday night. Her comments on our opening run through echoed my opinion. Karen responded by raising that level even more! And if you noticed, she actually got to work on some fine points including chord balance. Typically Karen (and our other coaches) have to spend their time on far more basic stuff.

So I tossed\_and\_turned for awhile from the sheer excitement of hearing such high quality singing sustained and improved throughout an entire rehearsal. Then my excitement changed to worry and I tossed\_and\_turned for awhile longer. Worry about 'what,' you ask? Worried whether we can recreate that level and more importantly, recreate it on demand. Now we've shown what we're capable of, can we achieve that level without a Karen Rourke or Dan Signor standing up front? I hope the answer is yes! If we can, then I look forward to more sleepless Tuesday nights in Stowe!

## This bulletin is still under construction

As many of you have noticed, *The Undertone* has been out of sorts for the last few months. This has been due to a number of factors, not the least of which has been: a couple of deaths in my family, new computer software -- [the layout is now being attempted using Adobe PageMaker] -- moving my editing site from work to home and last but not least of all, loosing my job and going into a somewhat forced retirement.

Please bear with me as I learn to us the new software -- boy, did I learn a lot today!

Thanks for your patience.

Jerry Walter, Editor

## Spencer goes to Kenosha

Live Wire - Reed Samson, PR Mgr.

Rick Spencer of East Hartford, Connecticut, has been hired to join the Society's Music Department. The announcement was made Tuesday (7/23) by Dr. Greg Lyne, SPEBSQSA Director of Music Education and Services.

A graduate of the University of Connecticut, Spencer holds a B. S. degree in Music Education and a B.A. degree in Music. He has been a member of SPEBSQSA since 1989 and has served as a school faculty member, vocal coach, music director and quartet singer — most recently as tenor of the 2001 NED Quartet Champion, Road Show.

Rick, who will begin his duties in September, will replace Music Specialist Kirk Young, who is leaving the headquarters staff to be able to spend more time with his family and has accepted the position as the music director of the Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony.

**Board of  
Directors  
Meeting  
Wednesday  
August 14  
Shaw's  
Supermarket  
7:30**



- August 10 (Saturday) - Package Show -- Troy, VT  
Warm up Noon, Show 2:00
- August 14 (Wednesday) - Board of Directors meeting  
Shaw's Supermarket 7:30  
All welcome
- August 15 (Thursday) - National Anthem  
Vermont Expos  
Centennial Field Warm up 6:30
- August 20 (Tuesday) - NO MEETING See Aug 21
- August 21 (Wednesday) - Mini Retreat -- Dan Signor  
St. Francis School 7:00
- August 24 (Saturday) - Package Show -- Vergennes, VT  
Times to be announced
- August 30 -- September 1 (Fri. -- Sun.) - Bolton Landing Barbership  
Festival
- September 17 (Tuesday) - Early singout Place TBD  
Warmup at 6:30, Sing 7:00
- September 27-28 (Fri. -- Sat.) - Fall Retreat Place TBD  
Gary Bolles
- October 20 (Saturday) - Package Show - Randolph, VT
- October 25 - 27 (Fri. - Sun.) - District Convention and  
Contest -- Lake Placid, NY
- November 19 (Tuesday) - Early singout 3 Cathedral  
Square, Burlington  
Warm up 6:30 -- Sing 7:00
- December 1 (Sunday) - Elks Memorial Service
- February 14 (Friday) - Singing Valentines
- April ?? - 20 Week Club Banquet  
Date, place and time TBD
- May 31 (Saturday) - 55th Annual Show  
Featuring 2002 Champs  
Four Voices