



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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November 26, 2002  
 Volume 18, Number 26

## Using Learning Tapes

### Want to learn faster and more easily from learning tapes? These pointers will help!

by Dr. Dave Anderson, Gentlemen of Fortune  
 as found on the Society's web page

#### Learning Notes and Words using a Recording

These days we often work on notes and words by listening to a recording purchased from the Society or recorded at a rehearsal. Sometimes chorus organizations also provide auditory learning aids. Here are some pointers to make this learning method as productive and useful as possible.

#### Preparation: Cultivate Familiarity

\* Care about doing the best you can do. The intention to do well increases the quality of your attention. Attention to the task is a major determiner of success.

\* Listen to the selection all the way through in order to get a sense of the whole. Listen for the song's structure, its melodic line, its harmonic pattern, its word meanings, its word sounds, and its emotional content. Imagine body expression that matches what you hear.

\* Find an efficient way of returning to the song's beginning point: one song per tape, counting the time to rewind, taping in both directions, etc.

#### Repetition: Establishing Neural Pathways

\* Listen without singing until each note as it comes, is not surprising but expected.

\* See the rise and fall of the notes as you hear them. Move your hand up and down to the notes' rise and fall. Watch the music if appropriate.

\* When each note is expected before you hear it, start to sing along softly so that the recording predominates. Continue this way until your voice matches the words and notes of the recording. Repeat until every word sound, note and breath is the same.

\* Attend to tempo, quality and volume so that the recording is leading your learning and your voice is "inside" the sound of the recording. Follow rather than lead.

\* Now start turning the balance control to begin eliminating your part and hearing more and more of the other parts. If your player has no balance control, use a headset and place the earphone away from your ear.

See **Learning Tapes** page 2

## Three events this weekend plus --

by Don Pierce, Chorus Manager

We have three events on the calendar between now and next Tuesday:

**Saturday, November 30** - U Mall performance by our holiday octet/ensemble. Warm-up is at 2:15 p.m. in the U Mall offices at the left rear of the food court. Performance time is 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We'll be performing all the holiday music we've been working on over the past month plus a few "fifties" songs. Newer members will be allowed to sing from the "spots." Uniform is the inform travel outfit (red striped shirt, khaki trousers, green sweater, black sock/shoes). The current plan is to augment the uniform with a holiday sprig.

**Sunday, December 1** - Elks Memorial Service. Warm\_up is at 1:00 p.m. at the Elks BPOE Lodge, 925 North Avenue in Burlington. Performance time is 2:00. Spouses / significant others are invited as there is a

See **Big Events** page 4

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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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Package Show Producer	Charlie Church

**Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2001**

**Ed Bechtel**

**Division Barbershopper of the year 2000**

**Charlie Church**

## Learning Tapes from page 1

### Make Time your Friend

\* Work in a time frame of 10\_15 minutes at a time. Stay within your attention span time. Work at it often. Several times a day works well, but don't miss a day if you can help it.

\* Recognize that your brain is working on this task unconsciously as well as unconsciously. You will notice progress between session.

\* Decide to use as much time as you need. Some are faster, some slower at this skill. Take the time and be content with it. You will probably get faster at it over time.

### Other Options to Consider

\* Listen to small sections and memorize them one at a time.

\* Use the repeat function of a CD player or Mini\_disc player.

\* Deal with subsequent changes to the original by understanding and accepting the reasons for the change and relating the change to the original.

\* Eventually, sing your part while audiating the other parts. (Hearing them in your mind.)

\* From time to time, sing with the music to give yourself a visual check.

\* Cultivate patience with yourself to persist and achieve success. Set aside any frustrations you might feel and choose to be aware of your own progress.

## Silent Singing

by **Dave Stonecliffe**

As a new member of the Green Mountain Chorus I want to thank you for this wonderful opportunity to join with you gents in song. I have never participated in such an event as your District competition in Lake Placid. I am really having a lot of fun and learning more than I anticipated about singing.

I would like to share a one of those lessons about the much-discussed Learning Tapes. My primary vehicle

for learning the songs has been these Learning Tapes as I drove back and forth to work.

Several weeks ago in my enthusiasm to learn the songs I seemed to have strained my voice. I quickly concluded I needed to curtail my singing for a week in order to heal up.

Here is the lesson I learned. I continued to listen to the Learning Tapes but I did so more listening and less singing. I followed my part mouthing the words as if I were singing but making no sounds. I found a new level of learning by "silent singing" to the songs on the Learning Tapes. I discovered notes and even a word of two that I had somehow missed just listening or singing with the tape.

Now I realized that many of you folks already have discovered this on your own but I appreciate your patience with me as one of the new kids on the block.

## Another Tramack Makes The Record Books

by **Cathy DeCoste**, Harmony Heritage

Now it's Harmony, Incorporated benefitting from the great talents of the Tramacks of Barbershop-dom!

Congratulations to Renee Tramack for winning the Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award (Novice Director) in her first appearance on the HI International Stage. Renee directed the Harmony Heritage chorus to their very first top 10 finish. Additionally, the chorus took home the Tait Trophy (Most Improved) moving up 12 places and 170 points from last year, and the Geils Memorial Award (Novice Chorus). Neither Renee nor the chorus needed any plane to fly home from Indianapolis. These moments happen so rarely in life, it's wonderful to stop and enjoy them just for a little while.

# Music Team Report - November, 2002

by **Charlie Church**, Music and Perf VP

1. The Music Team last met on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall in Waterbury. The following is a summarization of that meeting.

2. We engaged in a lengthy discussion on the Fall Contest - how we did; what went right, what went wrong, and can we improve? The discourse was far ranging. We identified some problem areas which will need to be addressed. The general consensus was that we improved vocally and facially over last year but that we can do much better.

3. We further engaged in a lengthy discussion on where we go from here; expansion of the various techniques that Gary Bolles, Dan Signor and Karen Rourke brought us. We identified some major items that we will focus on: musical goals, key coaching messages that we will continue to stress, unison singing, facial involvement, craft sessions, more section practice, more focus in section practices on good vocal techniques, etc.

4. We reviewed the status of the 2003 Annual Show: we looked at the chorus songs learning status and out-of-spots dates; we reviewed the quartet song selection status to-date - QVP elect Charlie Cerutti will be contacting chapter quartets; we discussed at length the fact that the chapter members don't appear to be using the Learning Tapes - we identified a couple of Learning Tape usage ideas that we will have published in the Undertone.

5. We reviewed and worked at length all the various shows and sing-outs scheduled for November and December. See a separate article by the Chorus Manager in the Undertone listing all the various events, warm-up times, uniforms, and contact folks.

6. CVQ is attempting to respond to a Dan Signor request for an interface person and/or coaching for Norwich U quartets. Neil Cerutti has made an initial contact. We had hoped to cement a relationship at an Interchapter meeting. CVQ is to visit Norwich U chorus on one of their Monday rehearsal nights. It appears that Col. Bennett may not be pushing barbershop as much as he has in the past.

7. We looked at District Music and Performance VP Jim Dodge's Standing Ovation program in which a number of NED barbershoppers were trained to critique chapter performances. We reviewed a recently received e-mailing and discussed the reviewers. Music Team Chair to schedule a date through Jim for a review of a Package Show next summer

8. The Music Team will be looking at potential 2004 Annual Show themes starting in January. Any and all ideas will be welcomed.

9. We're starting to look at the organization of the 2003 Music Team with a goal of strengthening and sustaining Section Leadership. Potential 2003 Team members will be approached this month. And we'll be looking for someone to head up a new Music Team position of Program Chair. Anyone wishing to serve on the 2003 Music Team should contact Charlie Church.

10. The next Music Team meeting will be on December 3rd at 6:00 sharp at St. Francis School.

## Upcoming Chapter Events

The Burlington Chapter has a plethora of upcoming events. Here's a handy clip-out section listing the events and relevant information.

Date	Event	Warm-Up	Uniform	Contact
Nov. 30	UMall Sing-out	2:15 p.m.	Travel +	Al Carpenter
Dec. 1	Elks Memorial Service	1:00 p.m.	Spector/Blouin	Reid Allen
Dec. 2	Fanny Allen Tree/Caroling	3:55 p.m.	Warm/bright	Ed Bechtel
Dec. 10	St. Francis Show	6:30 p.m.	Travel	Reid Allen
Dec. 14	UMall Sing-out	2:15 p.m.	Travel +	Al Carpenter
Dec. 15	Holiday Show - Hunt Sh.	12:30 p.m..	tbd	Dave Merrill
Dec. 15	ditto - Waterbury Ctr.	5:00 p.m.	tbd	Dave Merrill
Dec. 21	UMall Sing-out	2:15 p.m.	Travel +	Al Carpenter
Dec. 31	BTV First Night	12:00 noon	Tux + Paisley	Al Carpenter
Dec. 31	BTV First Night	3:15 p.m.	Tux + Paisley	Al Carpenter
Jan. 17/18?	Installation Dinner	n/a	n/a	John Villere

## Chapter Development

by Reid Allen,

Chapter Develop. VP, Elect

Essentially this means membership recruitment. The music committee is responsible for Chorus development, and we do our best to sing well. Can we not do our best to recruit new singers to our chapter?

I will be putting some plans together to help us with this most important task. I welcome any suggestions that you may have. Please contact me with your ideas for finding new people.

## Movers and Shakers

### Department:

#### Men Of Note

In the recent Lake Placid chorus contest, the Nashua chapter had seventy eight men on stage. This didn't happen by osmosis. It happened through the hard work of a lot of their chapter members.

The Burlington chapter will be embarking upon a new membership program next year. We likewise will need a lot of hard work by our chapter members. Some of us have worked hard on membership in the past; some could possibly do more.

Here's a list of the Men of Note recipients in the Burlington Chapter. Let's recognize their efforts; but let's also see in 2003 if we can add many more names and numbers to the list. Wouldn't you like to make the bottom of the list?

#### More from column 2

other tree lighters. Dress warmly for the tree lighting and wear a bright colored sweater for the inside caroling. New members will be allowed to sing from the "spots."

## Men of Note

Allen, Monroe	1
Bechtel, Ed	1
Brochu, Denis	1
Grevatt, Harold	1
Higgs, Dale	1
Janes, Steve	1
LaCombe, Steve	1
Rizzo, Serge	1
Roberts, Bill	1
Stone, Brian	1
Carpenter, Al	2
Cerutti, Charlie	2
Cerutti, Mo	2
Costes, George	2
Laufer, Chuck	2
Merrill, Dave	2
Sheridan, Fran	2
Spector, Bruce	2
Beams, Len	3
Huetz, Jerry	3
Labrecque, Dick	3
Blouin, Dan	4
Pierce, Don	4
Allen, Reid	5
Morrill, Greg	6
Pesner, Hershel	7
Venditti, Dan	7
Walter, Jerry	10
Church, Charlie	33

**Big Events** from page 1 buffet luncheon after the ceremony.

We'll be performing three religious or patriotic songs. Newer members will be allowed to sing from the "spots." Uniform is the formal travel outfit (Spector/Blouin suit) white shirt, grey trousers, blue blazer, red paisley straight tie, black belt/socks/shoes.

**Monday, December 2** - Fanny Allen Tree Lighting-Caroling. The tree lighting will be at 4:00 p.m. sharp at Fanny Allen, 790 College Parkwy (Route 15) in Colchester. After the brief tree lighting ceremony, we will retire to the rehab unit and sing carols accompanied by

See **More** column 1



November 30 (Saturday)	--	Holiday Ensemble sings at University Mall -- 2 -- 5 See article page 1
December 1 (Sunday)	--	Elks Memorial Service North Ave Burlington 1:00 See article page 1
December 2 (Monday)	--	Fanny Allen Tree Lighting 3:30 See article page 1
December 3 (Tuesday)	--	Music Team Meeting 6:00 St. Francis
December 10 (Tuesday)	--	Show at St. Francis School
December 14 (Saturday)	--	Holiday Ensemble sings at University Mall 2 --5
December 15 (Sunday)	--	Holiday Show Hunt Middle School Burling
December 21 (Saturday)	--	Holiday Ensemble sings at University Mall 2 -- 5
December 24 (Tuesday)	--	NO MEETING Christmas Eve
December 31 (Tuesday)	--	First Night Burlington Performances 1:00 and 4:00

### 2003

January 17 or 18 (Friday or Saturday)	--	Installation Banquet
February 1 (Saturday)	--	Great Northern Harmony Workshop -- Montreal
February 14 (Friday)	--	Singing Valentines
April 4 - 5 (Fri. - Sat.)	--	Western Region Contest & Convention -- Troy, NY
May 2 (Friday)	--	20 Week Club Banquet S. Burlington K of C
May 31 (Saturday)	--	55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices
June 29 -- July 6	--	2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now!