

56 YEARS



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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Singing Valentines this Friday -- still time to sell!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

Early Singout next Tuesday

Yes, Singing Valentines 2003 is just about upon us. But there is still time to take additional orders. as you may or may not know, we have place notices both on the "singingvalentines.com" and the "lakechamplain.com" Internet sites.

In addition, notices were sent to local newspapers where we clearly got some exposure in the Shelburne News, which placed a 'top page left' article which has sparked several responses.

This year we were also fortunate to have Burlington's Mayor, Peter Clavelle, as a giver of a Singing valentine, in fact he is getting four lovely ladies with one SV.

I had a call from Steve Zind of Vermont Public Radio, asking about our program in the hopes of producing a piece for broadcast between now and Friday.

Our Local ABC-TV Channel 22 has also made inquiries and may be able to do a news segment on one of our quartets on Friday.

So far we have three Champlain Echo quartets and the following quartets from our chapter:

The Dreamers (9 to 5), High Voltage (2:30 to 9), CVQ (Central Vermont - Afternoon preferred) and a tenorless Lake Effect Harmony.

In addition. we have been offered the services of Denis Brochu (Lead or Bass), Chet Parsons (Bass), Bob Cauley (Baritone), Al Allen (Al Allen) and Reid Allen (Lead, Baritone and maybe Tenor).

As you can see we are very light on Tenors and could use any help we can get.

Next Tuesday, February 18, we will be singing at Fern Hill, 214 North Prospect Street, Burlington -- that's at the Riverside Avenue end of North Prospect.

As usual we will meet at 6:30 to warm up. We sing at 7:00 and plan to return to St. Francis School by around 8:00.

The uniform is the casual travel uniform -- khaki trousers, red-white striped shirt, green sweater and black belt, shoes and socks.

We hope to see everyone there.

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A Chording 2 your President

by John Villeré

Before a Show earlier this year the Bass for one of our Quartets had not yet arrived. I was invited to warm up with them. I rarely attempt to sing in a quartet because I have a tendency to sing along with those around me. It is not usually much of a problem in Chorus or VLQ singing. Quartet singing is another matter. Often, I will slip into singing the melody with the Lead. Occasionally, God help me, I'll even stumble in with the Baritone for a measure or so.

Needless to say, the results are not what they should be. Barbershop takes four parts. Sure, the melody seems to be the most important, but without the harmony parts the music lacks depth, and it certainly is not barbershop.

Our craft serves as a beautiful metaphor for mankind. If we were all the same we could only sing melodies - nice but not all that could be. Each of us is our own individual. Our differences are what make for the potential of harmonies.

When we come together we have an opportunity for synergy. Our differences must not come together arbitrarily or else we are sure to have discord. Rather we must balance our individuality with what others bring to the relationship. Adjust, but maintain our identities. Learn as much as we can about the other parts and learn our own part even better.

Harmony takes more effort. It takes commitment. The results are worth it. I took some important steps at the workshops in Montreal.

Now comes the time to use the three techniques Larry Bean shared with us in his course on music theory. Technique number one is practice. Technique number two is Practice. Technique number three is PRACTICE!

Portland honors Society Convention

The Portland, Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) has unanimously selected the Society's international convention as its top event of 2002. Society President Roger Lewis and Managing Director of Conventions & Events John Schneider will accept the Twin Spires Award in Portland April 17. Below is an excerpt from a press release POVA will publish.

The Twin Spires Award is presented in honor of a recent convention or meeting that significantly and positively affected the area's economy. This year's recipient will be the Society for the Preservation & Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. The Barbershop meeting was Portland's largest in 2002, attracting more than 12,000 delegates and pumping \$4.4 million into the area's economy."

POVA Convention Sales Manager Colleen Greenen had this personal observation: "Portland is so thrilled that SPEBSQSA's contribution to our community will be recognized ... this award definitely is a tribute to all the local Barbershop folks that said "yes" to bring this to Portland."

There's still time to reclaim your tuition:

Don't forget if you attended the Great Harmony Workshop Saturday, February 1, you can be reimbursed by the chapter for the \$37 tuition.

Please use the form sent out by Treasurer Denis Brochu, last week. If you don't have a copy, see Denis and he will provide you with one.

Board of Directors meeting this week 2/12 at Shaw's Supermarket 7:30

20 Week Club Winners

Date	No	Winner	Seller
12/10	219	Deana Higgs	D. Higgs
12/17	101	Murielle Rugg	D. Blouin
1/07	225	Carol Hathaway	E. Bechtel
1/14	136	Virginia Charlotte	D. Labrecque
1/21	129	Arletta Allen	A. Allen
1/28	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
2/04	119	Bob Goodrow	D. Brochu



- February 12 (Wednesday) -- Board of Directors meeting Shaw's Supermarket 7:30
- February 14 (Friday) -- Singing Valentines Quartets wanted!
- February 18 (Tuesday) -- Early Sing Out Fern Hill Prospect St. Burlington Warm up 6:30 See article page 1
- March 8 (Saturday) -- Spring Retreat Karen Rourke - Place TBD
- March 14 - 15 (Fri. & Sat.) -- Eastern Region Contest & Convention and 2003 International Prelims Peabody, Massachusetts
- March 23 (Sunday) -- Young Men In Harmony Mount Mansfield High School
- April 4 - 5 (Fri. - Sat.) -- Western Region Contest & Convention - Troy, New York
- May 2 (Friday) -- 20 Week Club Banquet S. Burlington K of C
- May 31 (Saturday) -- 55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices
- June 6 (Friday) -- Package Show Morrisville, VT
- June 22 (Sunday) -- Package Show Tunbridge, VT
- June 25 (Wednesday) -- Mini Retreat - Dan Signor
- June 29 -- July 6 -- 2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now!
- July 27-August 3 -- Harmony College St. Joseph, Missouri Sign up now!