



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop 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

Jerry Walter, Editor (802) 985-8714
66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

June 10, 2003
Volume 19, Number 17

Grade A Fancy makes a great debut!

by Jerry Walter, Editor



Photo by John Villeré

Green Mountain Chorus's newest quartet, Grade A Fancy made its show debut Friday at the Clarina Howard Nichols Concert in Morrisville on Friday June 6.

MORRISVILLE -- Last Friday evening at the, now annual, Clarina Howard Nichols Center Benefit Concert at People's Academy, The Green Mountain Chorus and four of its five chapter quartets, performed a mini-version of "A Salute to The Buffalo Bills." Despite the fact that Four Voices and Charisma were unavailable, the show was a great success upstage of the footlights.

The success on the down side was less than spectacular, as the chorus appeared to outnumber the audience.

A highlight of the show was the debut of our newest quartet **Grade A**

Fancy (Mo Cerutti, tenor; Mike LeMay, lead; Bob Cauley, baritone and Dave Stonecliffe, bass) who chose none other than the classic "My Wild Irish Rose" for their big night.

After their initial test, they sang "When There is Love at Home" and "Heart of My Heart (The Story of the Rose)" at the afterglow, held again at Hilary's Restaurant, which, incidently, was also a sponsor of the concert.

For those not reading the small print of the program, the Clarina Howard Nichols Center has provided, since 1981, shelter and other services to those who are survivors of domestic violence.

Phish to sing NA at NBA!

by Brian Lynch, Managing

Director of Communications SPEBSQSA, The rock group Phish will sing Val Hicks' barbershop arrangement of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before Game Four of the NBA Finals on Wednesday, June 11, 2003 beginning at 8:30 p.m. EDT on local channel WVNY (ABC Channel 22).

Phish, whose eclectic repertoire fuses rock, jazz, funk, R&B, bluegrass and just about everything else, has been performing barbershop in concert for many years, and has previously sung the Hicks arrangement at various sporting events.

In their earliest years, the Burlington, Vermont-based band were coached by their landlord, the late John Austin, a noted barbershopper from the Northeastern District and former Society Board member.

Their affinity for the barbershop style and regular use of barbershop repertoire led to 1999 Quartet Champs FRED imitating Phish singing "Poor Heart" from the Phish's 1992 CD "A Picture of Nectar." for the 2001 tribute

See **Phish** page 2

Page 2

Commitment
Letters
Coming Events

DIRECTOR'S

COMMITMENT!

by Greg Morrill, Musical Director

First, thanks to all who attended the show Friday in Morrisville. We had a great turnout and, in fact, outnumbered the audience! I felt it was a good show in spite of that.

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of listening to a high school chorus from Dinuba High School which is just outside Fresno, California. They were here as part of the International Choral festival held in Stowe this past weekend. This group of 26 (14 girls, 12 boys) students did some of the cleanest singing I've heard anywhere, anytime! While they weren't singing barber-shop, they demonstrated some of the basics we strive for: matched word sounds, unit sound within each section, overall synchronization of sounds. They sang without spots, mostly a cappella, and performed works from classical to spiritual to popular. They were awesome!

How do they achieve this? Commitment! This is a select group which rehearses every morning before school at 7:00 a.m.! Their director emphasized their commitment as many of the students are also athletes and/or student leaders.

What can we learn from them? Two things leaped out at me: one is to match our voice to the ensemble or section and two is to sing pretty rather than loud ("less is more" - Dan Signor). They demonstrated a good dynamic range without ever getting as loud as we tend to sing.

These two are related in that as we try to sing louder our voices may not match and blend as well: not everyone's volume **nine** is the same! I'm sure there were some outstanding solo voices in this high school group, but they became part of the ensemble sound. Again a commitment to the overall goal.

While we may not choose daily 7:00 a.m. rehearsals, we can choose to make the commitment to our overall goals. Within each section we need to achieve that unit sound and then as an ensemble, execute the sounds together!

Phish from page 1

to Phish album, "Sharin' in the Groove." Other diverse, but well known performers on the tribute album include: Arlo Guthrie, Jimmy Buffet, Vermont Youth Orchestra, The Wailers and Stanford University's Marching Band.

Package show: Tunbridge - 6/22!

by Don Pierce, Chorus Manager

The second summer Package Show will be held on Sunday, June 22nd for the Vermont Historical Society at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds in Tunbridge, VT. Warm-up will be at 12:00 p.m., with show time at 1:30 p.m.

Admission tickets for chorus members will be distributed next Tuesday.

Sign-up for this event is light so far. Based on the brochure Al Carpenter passed out last week, it should be a very interested event to attend - come early and stay late!.

More letters: From Gary Bolles -

Hiya Jerry and the GMC,

Congratulations on what sounds like a pretty darned successful Spring season capped by a terrific Annual Show! I continue to enjoy receiving the Undertone and am looking forward to another great weekend together in September.

-gab-

From Bev Austin -

Dear Charlie:

Thanks you so much for the complimentary ticket and for reserving the other ticket for my sister. We enjoyed the show so much and appreciate all the work that went into the production.

It was great that you introduced the chorus from Mt. Mansfield and, of course, The Half Steps really rocked the show. I especially enjoyed High Voltage and Charisma doing Lida Rose. You did a remarkable job. Each quartet added a great deal to the show. CVQ has come a long way / good luck to them.

The chorus was great, the quartets were great, the International quartet was great, the whole show was great - what can I say but thank you.

Most sincerely,

Bev Austin,

6/2/03

P.S. Thank Bob for pulling my name out of the box for the CD!



- June 22 (Sunday) -- Package Show Tunbridge, VT Vermont Historical Society 1:30 p.m. show
- June 24 (Tuesday) -- No regular meeting See tomorrow
- June 25 (Wednesday) -- Mini Retreat - Dan Signor 7:00 p.m. St. Francis School
- June 29 - July 6 -- 2003 International Convention and Contest MONTRÉAL! Sign up now!
- July 1 (Tuesday) -- No meeting - Go to Montréal!
- July 11 (Friday) -- National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30
- July 27-August 3 --Harmony College St. Joseph , Missouri Sign up now!
- August 1 (Friday) -- National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30
- August 8-10 (Fri. - Sun.) -- Harmony College NE
- Swptember 16 (Tuesday) -- Early Singout Wake Robin Shelburne 6:30
- September 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- Fall Retreat place TBD Coach - Gary Bolles
- September 20 (Saturday) -- Champlain Echoes Show Flynn Space
- October 24-25 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY
- December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30
- December ? -- Annual Holiday Show 2004
- January ? -- Installation Banquet
- January 31 (Saturday) -- Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal

The board of directors meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday June 11 has been postponed.