



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

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Granite Statesmen win seventh gold!

Scollay Square and New York Central Connection quartet winners in Saratoga Springs

by Jerry Walter, Editor

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. -- The weekend of October 24 - 26 proved to be another in the series of great contests in the Northeastern District..

Nashua's Granite Statesmen, all 78 of them, took their fourth consecutive gold medal to qualify for the International Chorus Contest next July in Louisville, Kentucky. The GS took no chances in the contest, as is a common practice with past champions, by performing their Montréal International contest package, "There Used To Be A Ballpark Right Here" and "The Best Times I Ever Had."

Second place went to Providence's Narragansett Bay Chorus for the fourth year in a row. (NBC holds the NED record with 11 gold medals.)

Upcoming contender, Concord, Massachusetts' Sounds of Concord, under the direction of Karen Rourke, took a solid third place, a spot they occupied three of the last four years.

Rounding out the medalists were Portland, Maine's Downeasters, fourth, and past champion Saratoga Springs', Racing City Chorus, fifth.

The surprise of the contest and most improved chorus was Hanover, New Hampshire's North Country Chordsmen, under the direction of Dan Signor, which finished sixth, up from number 17 last year. (That's 10 points per judge per song. Ed.)

Our own Green Mountain Chorus moved up two places to finish seventh of the 17 competitors.

The District and Senior quartet contests were blended together into one long contest with 25 entrants. Costuming was not in the running this year, as most quartets chose black, either formal or informal. Six quartets of the 25 competitors added a little color to their attire. Only two quartets showed creativity in costuming and that may have gotten them first and second honors. Bourbon Street, although wearing straight black tuxes Friday, returned Saturday with the tuxes tattered and torn as they sang "Nobody Wants You When You're Down And Out" and "That's Life." Scollay Square came on stage Friday night as Foreign Legionnaires and sang "The French Foreign Legion" and "If I Had You." They

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Early singout next Tuesday

by Reid Allen

Next Tuesday, the Green Mountain Chorus and quartets, if available, will be singing at Ruggles House from 7 to 7:30.

Ruggles House is a unique shared affordable housing community designed for seniors who want to remain socially active and independent with the support of on-site services. It is located at the corner of South Prospect Street and Robinson Parkway, just south of Main Street adjacent to UVM campus.

Uniform will be our regular traveling gear, khaki pants, red/white shirt, green sweater, black socks and shoes.

Warm up will be our usual time of 6:30.

Following the singout, we will return to St. Francis School by about 8 o'clock to continue our regular meeting.

Guests are welcome to attend or may wish to go to St. Francis School and wait for us to return. There are always a few members who "forget" these singouts, so you will have company while waiting for us.

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The Undertone

2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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Al Carpenter
Division Barbershopper of the year 2000
Charlie Church

NED Contest from page 1

finished up their blue ribbon quest by singing one of our favorites, "I Never See Maggie Alone."

The treat of the contest was Quick Thinking featuring the father and son team of Glenn Kanner and his 13-year old son, Douglas, singing tenor. They made it to the finals and finished in ninth place.

Burlington's Lake Effect Harmony finished a disappointing sixteenth.

The Senior Quartet contest included a couple of 'ringer' entries. First, there was what used to be a Burlington quartet and the 1981 Northeastern District Champion Yankee Express (Andy Buchanan - Tenor, Tom Glosick - Lead, Steve Norris - Baritone and Dick Ianni - Bass). People who knew of their blue ribbon asked, "If they already won, how can they be singing again?" Simple, they were entered only in the Senior's contest, in which they finished third, one point ahead of Top Drawer Four, NED's Senior winner in 2001.

The second "ringer" foursome was the winner, New York Central Connection, including three judges and half of last year's champs, Encounters of the Seventh Kind, featuring past Burlington director, Steve Plumb on Baritone and Tom McQueeney on Lead. Your reporter thought they deserved to win, while others disagreed.

As has been our custom since the 1970s, the Green Mountain Chorus held its annual Chorus Breakfast which included Gray Brunell's classic Annual Award presentations. Each of our 34 members present (except Gary) received a custom award -- most courtesy of the Dollar Store.

A surprise special guest at the breakfast was past Burlington Chapter President, Northeastern District Bulletin Editor of the Year, Harmonet Reporter and current Candidate for Administrative Judge, Steve Tremper.

Holiday show tickets available now

Tickets the joint Holiday Show are available now. Ticket chair Jim Mallabar will have a ticket packet for each chorus member. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for Seniors, and \$4.00 for students. We're asking that each active chorus member sell, or sponsor, four tickets. There are separate tickets for each show: yellow for Burlington and blue for Waterbury Center - the tickets are not interchangeable. You will be issued tickets to the show venue closest to your home. Jim will also have extra tickets for each venue.

NEWS FROM DIXIE

First, Hello, "y'all!" We are busy here in Carolina singing [October 4] in Gatlinburg, Tennessee at our Fall Dixie District competition. The **Gold Standard Chorus** (that's us) hope to finish in the ribbons. We were eleventh last year, finished sixth this past Spring. We are scheduled to sing right behind the **Big Chicken Chorus**. "They don't call 'em big chickens for nuthin'...well, it's a nice thought.

Anyway, the reason I am writing all of you is to tell you what a small world this is. Mark Rodda is our Chapter Music VP and he's formed a new quartet called **Joyride**. I am producing this year's Annual Show (November 1, called "How the West Was Sung") and I hired these guys without hearing them, because of the voices involved. The Tenor is none other than Steve Tremper, former GMC stand-out. These guys are expected to take the District Quartet competition by storm this weekend. We signed them for our Show for essentially gas money....cool, huh?

This weekend, the Dixie District will have **39** quartets singing in the elimination round Friday night....can't someone please get this Barbershop disease under control?

I love it. I miss you all and hope you are well.

-Duff

[Our apologies to Ned Duffy for missing this earlier. As it turned out his chorus finished eighth. The quartet contest had only 35 competitors -- that's about a six hour con-

In appreciation of the GMC

by *Hershel Pesner*

After almost 20 years of barbershopping I feel that I have finally found a chorus that truly fills all my desires for this wonderful hobby. I've come home. My only wish is that Montréal should be 90 miles closer to Burlington. But this only makes my destination that more desirable.

Not only does this chorus sing well, but we have fun learning. Greg's enthusiasm and spirit pervades every rehearsal making me want more. So, "Thank you, Greg and Pat." I haven't had a moment's boredom since I joined. And, to the music committee, kudos for selecting such a well rounded repertoire. To all the members -- thanks for making me feel so much at home.

I just wished I lived closer so I could attend more singouts and give more of my time

While I was out --

by *Jerry Walter*, Alternate Arts Reviewer

The last two weeks in September provided a great opportunity for one to see Vermont's barbershop ladies in Harmony, Inc. chapters in action -- two annual shows on consecutive weekends. I neglected to report on these shows earlier. Better late than never. Just think, if this were a monthly publication, you wouldn't get this news until December!

Champlain Echoes

Saturday, September 20, the Champlain Echoes presented "Echoes Go Hollywood" at the Flynn Space in Burlington. If you have never been there, note that it is a small space set up cabaret style including some theater seating and some casual tables plus a bar. Space for perhaps 100 people; no curtain and the performers are almost in the audience.

The show "opened" a little before curtain time with Joan Rivers (Corrine Bissonette) interviewing various celebrities the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Dorothy Gale (of OZ) (Becky Senesac), Charlie Chaplin, Miss Piggy and Maria (Sound of Music).

When the official show started, the chorus, 27 strong took to the risers in red sequined tops and black floor length skirts and sang the first of 22 chorus songs, all in the Hollywood theme! Chorus songs were interspersed with numbers from no less than five chapter quartets. Chorus Director, Becky Senesac, with her super smile and a second generation barbershopper, helped out by singing in three quartets. Only Nancy L'Ecuyer did more by singing in **four** quartets. (Note that the ladies have adopted the single "t" version of 'quartette')

A particularly memorable number was Marilyn's "A Diamond Is A Girl's Best Friend" which ended with the entire chorus singing in MM's breathy style and all sporting giant sparklers.

The guest quartet was none other than 'Round Midnight, a mixed quartet of Dan and Gaye (La Casce) Signor and Jay and Gale Hall, proved to be very entertaining and flexible as they sang a variety of genres. Numbers included "Make 'em Laugh" and "I'm a Blonde" with designated blonde, Gale Hall, getting the honors. Lots of "bovine" jokes. Overall -- well worth their fee.

Barre-Tones

The following Saturday, The Barre-Tones presented "Name That Tune, a fun and harmonious look at TV game shows" at the Barre Opera House. They played to a reasonable crowd, considering the size of the theater. The chorus plus three chapter quartets shared the spotlight with four small ensembles -- three with nine singers and one with six, which got the entire chorus in at least one group. The show was divided into six scenes: The Song is Right, Wheel of Four Tunes, Vermont Idol, Password, Musical Jeopardy and Harmony Feud.

The last act featured a feud between guest quartet CVQ and chapter quartet The Long & Short of It. QVC sang "Hello, Mary Lou" and "When I Wish Upon A Star." While The Long & Short of It did a very funny rendition of "This Little Light of Mine" in which all four singers had little flash lights. Jane Watson's light was always off when it should have been on and on when it should have been off. She even tried trading lights with Carol Hollenbeck to no avail. (Well, after all she is a baritone. Just kidding. Ed.)

The 'real' featured quartet was Change of Heart, 1999 Harmony Queens. (They are also a Sweet Adeline quartet.) They performed in typical champion style -- singing interspersed with jokes, the main theme was the fact that one of the quartet was single and was looking hard for a mate. They wore long, thigh length multicolored sparkly tops over floor length black satin v-neck dresses. Songs included: "Chordbusters March," "Chances Are," "I'm the One You Are Looking For," "Don't Blame Me" and "Slap That Bass." Worth watching and listening to.

Following the show a good sized group proceeded to the afterglow at a nearby Methodist church (yes, we stuck by their rules, i.e. no alcohol). CVQ had a hay day as they entertained while the rest of the Barre-Tones arrived. The crowd loved them and CVQ loved the responses as well.. (I have a feeling that CVQ may have paid the Barre-Tones to be on the show.)

The main events featured some of the multi-member groups from the show and the Four Baritones quartet (really, the whole baritone section singing four parts on purpose) sang a parody of "Blue Skies" with words like "Blue Jays eating my seeds..." Other numbers: "All I Have To Do Is Dream" (4 Tune Hunters), "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings" (Four Friends), and "Gonna Build Me A Mountain" and "Mills Brothers Medley" (The Long & Short of It). The chorus finished off their portion of the 'after-show' with the beautiful "Candle on the Water."

At that point I left to return to Burlington so I can't report any other highlights.

Holiday activities

by *Charlie Church*, Music VP

A glance at the coming events on the right side of this page of the Undertone will indicate a plethora of singing events during the holiday season. Please update your date book with these events:

First, there are U Mall sing-outs on November 29 and 30, December 13 and 20. These fun events involve singing at various locations in the University Mall from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.; singing mostly holiday music. Chapter Booking Agent Al Carpenter is the "honcho" for these events - see him with your questions and/or to sign-up.

The seventh annual joint holiday concert with the Barre-Tones and Champlain Echoes will be held on Saturday, December 6 with a show at 3:00 p.m. at North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington and a show at 7:00 p.m. at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury Center. The three choruses and their quartets will perform traditional secular and sacred holiday music. Chapter quartets are urged to get their song selections to Greg ASAP. The "honcho" for this event is Charlie Church - please see him with your questions. Anne Nichols, Dan Blouin and John Villere have worked hard on a flyer - it will be in the mail by the end of this week.. Our crack PR team (Jerry Huetz and Serge Rizzo) will be cranking out lots of PR in late November. Tickets for sale by GMC members are available now from Jim Mallabar. Anyone with any thoughts/ideas for door prizes should see Charlie. All active chorus members are expected to participate in these concerts unless family/work commitments preclude attendance.

Sunday, December 7 will bring us back again in the Elk's annual memorial service for members who died in 2003. The chorus generally performs up to four religious/inspiration songs during this moving service. There will be a new twist this year as the chorus will also sing regu-

lar repertoire in the time period between the end of the memorial service and the start of the luncheon. Reid Allen is the "honcho" for this event - see him with your questions. There are usually about 20 chairs set-up for us at the memorial service so sign-up early to reserve your spot!

Sunday afternoon, December 14 will bring a new event for us as we'll be performing a holiday Package Show at the Vergennes Opera House. The chorus and quartets will perform holiday songs for about 45 minutes, break for an intermission, and then engage in a holiday song sing-along with the audience. See Booking Agent Al Carpenter or Chorus Manager Don Pierce with questions about this show. All active chorus members are expected to participate in this concert unless family/work/church commitments preclude attendance.

Planning session Saturday

This Saturday, November 15, we will hold a Chapter Planning Session between 9 and 3 in the parish hall of St. John Vianney Church, 160 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, just south of Williston Road.

Park in the rear of the church and enter by the door nearest the incoming driveway. The hall is in the basement.

All members and guests are welcome. We will be discussing and planning activities and events for the near and far future. If you have issues you want to be discussed and cannot attend, please let a member of the board of directors (see page 2 side-bar) know before Saturday.

Because we will not be stopping long for lunch, plan to bring something for lunch.

So, if you have any beefs or good ideas, why don't you come or at least send a representative.



- November 15 (Saturday) -- Chapter planning session 9 to 3 St. John Vianney Church, See articlethis page
- November 18 (Tuesday) -- Early Singout Ruggles House UVM S. Prospect St and Robinson Parkway, Burlington Warm up 6:30
- November 29 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- November 30 (Sunday) -- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 6 (Saturday) -- Annual Holiday Show 3 p.m. North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington Warm up 1:30 7 p.m. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, Waterbury Center. Warm up 6 p.m.
- December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30
- December 13 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 14 (Sunday) -- Vergennes Holiday Show 2:00 p.m. Warm up 12:30 Vergennes Opera House
- December 16 (Tuesday) -- First 20 Week Club Drawing
- December 20 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 23 (Tuesday) -- Caroling (Possible event) Place(s) to be determined

2004

- January ? -- Installation Banquet
- January 10-11 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED COTS Sea Crest, Massachusetts
- February 7 (Saturday) **NEW DATE!** -- Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal with Uptown Sound
- February 14 (Saturday) -- Singing Valentines
- March 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Prelims, VLQ and Western Division