



# The Burlingtone



The Voice of the Green Mountain Chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1947  
We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont-Call 879-3105

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WEB SITE: [www.nedistrict.org/greenmtn/](http://www.nedistrict.org/greenmtn/)



**DREAMERS** Singing 'Sweet May' at Allenwood on Caroling Night-(l. to r.)-Steve Janes, Jerry Walters, Ed Bechtel, Dick Labrecque

## Caroling Night a Big Success!!!

The Green Mountain Chorus performed their annual excursion into the community on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, when they sang Christmas carols to the residents of Converse Home, Country Park, and Allenwood Residences. The audience loved the performances and the Chorus enjoyed the applause. A great time was had by all that attended Reid and Betty Allen's Afterglow as well--there was enough food & drink to choke a horse! Thanks Reid and Betty--- Pat Heise handled the directing chores for the evening and did her usual fine job.

## GREAT NORTHERN HARMONY WORKSHOP

2005  
FACULTY AND COURSES  
February 5, 2005

Full Tuition is \$46.00 U.S. / \$55.00 Cdn. Per Person  
\$55.00 U.S. / \$65.00 Cdn. after January 10, 2005  
No refunds can be issued after January 19, 2005  
See registration form for details-(*The Green Mountain Chorus will pay tuition!!*) Let Dick know--

School is being held at Champlain Regional College  
900 Riverside Drive  
Saint Lambert, Quebec

**Registration opens at 8:00 am.**

Choruses wishing to be coached must have their request to Steven Wheaton before December 31, 2004. This can be done at (450) 462-3713 by phone or at [st.wheaton@sympatico.ca](mailto:st.wheaton@sympatico.ca) by e-mail. Chorus directors can choose their coach on a first come first served basis.

For members of Choruses being coached, please choose a half-day class and Chorus Coaching. A form for

each member of the chorus must be submitted (**See Montreal, p.2**) (**Montreal, cont'd**) with registrations.

For Quartets from Choruses being coached, please choose both Chorus Coaching and Quartet Coaching. This will give quartets a chance to be coached with their chorus and have 2 sessions of their own. Quartets must register before January 10, 2005. All quartets will have at least 1 session with a member of The Boston Common as time permits.

For those registrants not registering with a chorus or quartet being coached, please choose 2 half day classes.

**Michael Martin: Vocal Care Through Singing Technique**

Michael is the tenor in the Management, NED Quartet Champion. He has a Master's degree in Music and is a high school music teacher. He is studying at Kent University for his Doctorate of Music. This class is an interactive class with some one on one work. This class is limited to 15 students in the morning and 15 students in the afternoon.

**Kent Martin: Vocal Care Through Singing Technique**

Kent is the tenor of the Boston Common, 1980 International Quartet Champions. He has coached many quartets and choruses and has taught at many schools throughout the Northeast and the society. This class is limited to

15 students in the morning and 15 students in the afternoon.

**Larry Bean: Theory Every Singer Should Know**

Larry is the lead for The Management NED Quartet Champion. He was a high school music educator in Maine and has participated in many youth outreach seminars. He now works in the computer field. This class is geared toward reading music and what all of the markings on a score represent. It will cover keys, scales, intervals and chords.

**Overdrive: Put That Quartet Experience into Overdrive.**

2000 Northeastern District Champions. Al St. Louis lives in Nashua, NH. Al's melodious and powerful voice is one of the most recognizable in the Northeastern District. Al has sung in various quartets over the years including 1999 NED champion, Club NED and 1987 NED champion, From The Heart. Al is also a respected coach, having taught at a number of District schools. John Sinclair lives in Brookline, NH. He graduated from Ithaca College in 1993 with a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance. Eric Ruthenberg lives in Newport, NH. He is the Choral Director at Newport Middle High School, and Music Director of the Concord, NH chapter chorus, The Concord Coachmen. Eric is the chairman of the Society Young Men In Harmony Committee, and has spent several years doing youth outreach in the Northeastern

District. Jason Woolf lives in Chelmsford, Mass. He **(see Montreal, p.3)** **(Montreal, cont'd.)** discovered barbershop while performing in a community theatre musical in 1997. After attending his first barbershop show, he was hooked. Jason has dabbled in music all his life from composing ditties on piano and ukulele at age four to singing and playing guitar for a rock band before discovering his love of theatrical performance in 1993. But since joining the Nashua Granite Statesmen in early 1998, theatre has taken a back seat to barbershop.

**Mike Nichols: Creating Artistry in the Art Form**

Originally from Seneca Land, Mike Nichols has been barbershopping since 1987. He has sung on the International Contest Stage in Pittsburgh, Miami and Kansas City and has been directing for 7 years And is the lead of the current NED Champions, Bourbon Street. Mike's strengths are in the areas of artistic presentation and vocal production. This class will be interactive using common music to show the processes to go through to add artistry to a musical composition. It will aid in determining what steps to take when planning, what triggers artistic development within you, what emotions are a big factor for you when adding artistry, how to convey those emotions to your chorus/quartet members and in performance, and how to reinforce your

commitment to the emotion and artistry of the music you are making.

**Sandi Wright: Putting the Motion in Emotion**

Movement and gesture fall into a four-level hierarchy for which the final level and ultimate goal is Believability. Without achieving believability, the preceding levels will fall short of truly entertaining the audience. This class is an amalgamation of 3 of Sandi's highly acclaimed IES classes. Sandi will guide you through the basics of body language right up to advanced Characterization. Contemporary, honest and earthy, Sandi brings her 34-year love of barbershop harmony to members of Sweet Adelines International, SPEBSQSA and Harmony Incorporated as well as pageant participants, show choirs and acappella jazz choirs in the USA, Canada and throughout Europe.

**David Wright: The History of Barbershop Harmony**

This course, new for this school, will cover the origins of barbershop harmony and how it has evolved. David, from St. Louis, Missouri, is an arranger and composer of vocal music. He specializes in vocal harmony, especially barbershop harmony, but his work often integrates the close harmony style with jazz, blues, gospel, country, doo-wop, and contemporary acappella. He has researched the origins of barbershop harmony and teaches

this course at SPEBSQSA's  
Harmony College and at Sweet  
Adelines  
International's International  
Education Symposium

**Quartet and Chorus Coaches: How to Coach**

If you want to learn how to coach what better way than to watch great coaches in action. You can sit in and watch and/or participate in coaching sessions. There is only room for 1 or 2 per coach and the quartet being coached reserves the right to have you watch or participate. Either way, you can pick up many great tools for your own coaching.

**Faculty members on hand to coach quartets and choruses will be:**

Boston Common, Kevin Keller,  
Steve Janes, Michael Martin,  
Laura Holmes,  
Wendy McCoole, Jim Dodge, Bill  
Bolis, Karen Rourke, Rob Mance,  
Lindsay  
Chartier, Denis Laflamme  
DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOL:

**From Vermont,** take I-89 which becomes 133 nord (north) in Canada to 35 nord. Take 35 nord to 10 ouest (west). Take 10 ouest to rte 132 est (exit 6) just before the Champlain Bridge. Take rte 132 est. Continue until Blvd. Lafayette (exit 7). Keep right through exit. At light, turn right onto Riverside Drive. College is on the right at the first light.

**Complete the registration below and mail with full payment to:**

Steven Wheaton, 4135 Tracy, St.  
Hubert, Quebec, J3Y 6K8, (450)  
462-3713  
From U.S. you must affix

sufficient postage  
Make cheque payable to: Island  
City Chorus. Partial payments  
and deposits  
will not be registered.  
Only registrations with e-mail  
addresses will be confirmed.  
Please supply all requested  
information. It relates to  
serving you better.  
Thanks!

**CHOOSE COURSES**

Half Day Courses (Select two or  
Quartet Coaching. Times will be  
determined  
by class size and type)  
Course  
Vocal Care Through Singing  
Technique  
Putting the Motion in Emotion  
Creating Artistry in the Art  
Form  
Theory Every Singer Should Know  
How to Coach  
The History of Barbershop  
Harmony  
Put That Quartet Experience into  
Overdrive  
Quartet Coaching  
Chorus Coaching

**INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - NOT FOR QUARTETS BEING COACHED**

Name  
Voice part: T L Br Bs  
Address  
City, Prov / State, Postal / Zip  
Chapter / Chorus Name  
Home Telephone (e-mail)

**Comment:**

Mike Hermann passed on a comment his wife, Lynne, heard at the Vergennes Opera House performance. A woman was leaving and said, "I thought this was an amateur group, these guys are professionals!" We sang well to a small audience, the mark of true professionals, guys. Remember, the best PR is a great performance. Thanks.

**Singing the praises of top quartet**  
**By Neal Rubin / The Detroit News**

Spend six or eight minutes carrying a tune and you feel like you've lugged the darned thing up a hill. Do that three times -- two songs per round, 10,000

spectators, dead solid perfect, better than 41 other finalists -- and you come home to Macomb County as international champions.

You're the best foursome in the entire Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, or as it's known lyrically to its members, SPEBSQSA. And then you go to work, says Jack Slamka of Riley Twp., and you tell your buddies, "Hey, we just won the international championship!"

To which they say, "Yeah? So?"

"You get humbled pretty quick," Slamka says, laughing. But even if nobody took notice 17 months ago, the quartet known as Power Play caught the attention of someone fairly notable earlier this month:

Jane Pauley.

You could say it's because of Slamka's stirring base voice, or son Mike's velvet melodies, or the fact that Power Play is only the second family group ever to win the big prize. Actually, Slamka concedes, it's because Pauley's daughter sings in an *a cappella* group at Yale, so Pauley decided to do a show on unaccompanied vocal music.

In any event, the group that would be the pride of Macomb County if Macomb County only knew it existed will perform at 10 a.m. Thursday on WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). It's just one quick Christmas carol and maybe a demonstration of how the heck barbershop quartets sound so smooth, Slamka says, but "The Jane Pauley Show" airs nationally, and it beats the heck out of a "Yeah? So?"



You don't get into barbershopping to be Elvis, anyway. If you're Slamka, 57, you do it because your parents sang in the General Motors choir for 32 years and music burbles through your DNA. You do it because your sons, Mike and Mark, and your nephew Don will do it with you. And of course, you do it because it makes your wife crazy.

"If you're holding a conversation, you'll just say the wrong word and they'll go off," says Kitty Slamka, who will celebrate her 35th anniversary Monday. One innocent remark about the weather, and suddenly your little family get-together erupts into "The Sunshine of Your Smile."

Fortunately, she likes the sound. For that matter, who doesn't? Start with Mike, 33, singing lead, then bring in Mark, 32, with the tenor part. Jack's bass is sort of the engine, and if you're keeping things industrial, then baritone Don, 32, is the putty, sometimes above the lead and sometimes below, holding the chord together.

They started singing together when the boys were still in high school and qualified for the internationals for the first time in 1990. They moved from 39th to 24th, bounced around the mid-teens for awhile, took a few years off -- "my sons were doing silly stuff like getting married and having kids," Jack explains -- finally cracked the top 10, and five years later won it all.

The funny thing about barbershopping -- OK, one of the funny things -- is that it's an old man's pastime, but it's a young man's game. Something like 40 percent of SPEBSQSA members are creaky enough to cash Social Security checks, but Jack Slamka was 18 years older than the next-oldest singer in the finals.

The winners one year worked at Disney World, singing all day long. Other groups are packed with music students and voice teachers and near-professionals, Mike Slamka

says. Jack and his boys work for auto suppliers, and Don, who lives near Hillsdale, appraises real estate.

They take a fair amount of pride in being barbershoppers, first and only. Though past winners can't compete anymore, they're still stars wherever "Lida Rose" is heard, playing upwards of two dozen out-of-town gigs a year.

Jack Slamka says they'll start slowing down as he closes in on 60. Mike has three musical daughters to raise, and real life gets ever more intrusive.

"We will never break up, though," Mike says. "How can you break up with your family?" And they'll always be world champions, no matter how many people say, "Yeah? So?"

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY---**

If life were fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead.