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2006, 2007 Illinois District
Fifth Place Medalist Chorus
and Plateau 4A Champions

The C-U ReCHORDer

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Champaign-Urbana, Illinois Chapter
of the Barbershop Harmony Society

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Statesmen host Music Man singers

By Becky McDuffee

Holy Cross school in Champaign put on the Music Man as their spring musical, April 12-15, 2007. In December, when preparing for auditions, several chorus members helped at a workshop at Holy Cross. **Morris Huck, Ron Davis, and Matt Carlen** came to the school and helped Becky McDuffee, mother of Music Man baritone Nate McDuffee and local Sweet Adeline, teach students the tag to "Sincere."

The show was double cast with a girls quartet and a boys quartet. Both quartets came to visit the Illini Statesmen on May 10th. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders sang "Ice Cream," "Sincere," "Goodnight Ladies," and "Lida Rose" for the chorus. The Statesmen performed "In the Mood," "Birth of the Blues," and "Stars Fell on Alabama" for the

students and their parents. As a finale, all chorus and quartet members gathered on the risers to sing "Down Our Way" under the direction of **Lee Reifsteck**, and "Keep the Whole World Singing" under the direction of Becky McDuffee. Tag-singing, refreshments, and socializing ended the evening on a high note.



Photo by Jackie Kehl

Music Man quartet singers pictured are (left to right on the front row) Nate McDuffee, baritone; Adam St. Claire, lead; Claire Taylor, bass; Gabriella Tamassia, baritone, Kaleigh Niccum, lead, Elizabeth Kehl, tenor.

In the second row are Ken Schlorff, bass (second from the right in a navy shirt) and Kevin Hodge, tenor (center in light blue with a green shirt behind him).

Join us for Market at the Square

By Paul Stansberry

We need YOU! All of you, on June 16 and June 23. We have reserved a booth on those dates for the Market at the Square. Market at the Square is held every Saturday morning, May through November, in the southeast parking lot of Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana. This is a great opportunity to promote our chorus and our hobby. This year we have invited the Sweet Adelines to join us. They are excited to join us and are excited for the public relations and membership opportunity.

I hope I can count on all of you to be excited for this opportunity as well. We would like the entire chorus to be there from 8:00 to noon on both Saturdays. We will start setting up at 6:30, so come earlier if you can. We need all of you there to support our chapter. We would like to have enough men there to sing some chorus songs and do some combined songs with the Sweet Adelines.

Get excited, get pumped, this is a **GRAND** opportunity. What fun we can all have singing in a relaxing environment and enjoying the camaraderie of our female counterparts.

As a bonus and incentive, we will have a large cooler stocked with sodas and water. I will also have donuts, LOTS of donuts. Bring your own coolers as well with something to share if you wish. What a time we can have with this.

Lets show the Sweet Adeline's AND more importantly, our PUBLIC, how dedicated we are to our chapter. Lets show them the TRUE meaning of barbershop. The pure joy of singing with friends while putting behind the worries of day to day life. There is no better PR than you and the image you put out. If people see us having an AWESOME time, enjoying carefree singing, then they will want to be a part of it.

But it takes you, all of you.

Mission Statement updated

Our chapter mission statement has not been revised in several years, so President Swartz has proposed a new and slightly revised mission statement. According to our chapter by-laws, any changes to the by-laws (of which our mission statement is a part) must be approved by a majority of the members present at a chapter meeting. Here is the proposed new mission statement.

The mission of the Champaign-Urbana chapter is:

- To perpetuate the unique American art form, the barbershop quartet, and;
- To challenge the membership to grow in music education and skill level, and;
- To serve the needs of all members by providing fellowship, social activities, and a variety of barbershopping opportunities, and;
- To encourage and educate youth in the community to appreciate and participate in a cappella music, including the barbershop style, and;
- To promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony, and;
- To support community charitable projects.

An easier way to remember would be the following simplified version.

Encourage Quarteting
Challenge Members
Offer Variety
Involve Youth
Educate the Public
Support Our Community

Board meeting report

The May Board Meeting was held at President Swartz's house on Sunday, May 20. Members present were President Kevin Swartz, Treasurer Denny Mulvany, Music VP Andy Isbell, Marketing & PR VP Paul Stansberry, and Director Lee Reifsteck.

Kevin discussed our current By-Laws and Mission Statement. He proposed updating the Mission Statement (see article this page.)

The Music Committee is making plans for our Fall Cabaret Show (see article this page.)

Paul reported his plans for our booth at Market at the Square (see article, page 1.) We also discussed plans for our 2008 Illini Statesmen Yearbook.

Denny reported that the treasury is in good shape with a balance of around \$3800. We had net proceeds from the 2007 yearbook of \$1914.74. We delivered 50 Singing Valentines and made \$1661.32. Our Installation Dinner/Reunion Chorus night, and our afterglow after the Krannert Show essentially broke even. Finally, we sold 426 tickets to our Krannert Show. However, after all expenses were paid we ended with a loss of \$330.04.

We did not have a quorum, so no votes were taken. We did discuss calendar items including a performance at the Hume Festival August 25. We would like to have a tailgate party before one of the Illinois football games. We also need to evaluate whether we want to compete in the fall; there is a home football game that weekend.

Next board meeting will be in July, date TBA.

Plans underway for Fall Cabaret Show

The Music Committee is making plans for our fall show. We haven't confirmed a date yet, but we are trying to reserve Saturday November 3 at St. Patrick's Parish Hall in Urbana.

Part of our show will be a tribute to the 50th anniversary of *The Music Man* opening on Broadway. We will be singing several songs from the show and may try to re-enact some of the important scenes. So, some of you will have speaking parts as well as songs to learn.

Currently, the music team is planning on the chorus singing these songs on the Cabaret Show.

In The Mood
Sentimental Journey
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy
Stars Fell On Alabama
Birth Of The Blues

The Old Songs/Hey Look Me Over
Coney Island Baby
Tiger Rag
Wedding Bells
Ya Got Trouble
Marian the Librarian
Lida Rose/Dream of Now
"Till There Was You
76 Trombones

We will also need a quartet to sing "Sincere," and we would like to re-enact the opening "Train" Scene.

This is also the time to start thinking about putting quartets together if you would like to sing on the Cabaret Show. Start now and you'll have plenty of time to learn some songs. You can even be ready in time to compete in the fall contest in Peoria. Members of the music team would be happy to provide coaching to new quartets.

Craft Corner

Achieving artistry in performance

You may wonder why we spend so much time in our warmups working on breathing, tone production and singable consonants. We're working on the building blocks to create an artistic and musical performance every time we sing. The Society's Definition of the Barbershop Style includes some words on artistry.

Artistic singing in the barbershop style exhibits a fullness or expansion of sound, precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Ideally, these elements are natural, unmanufactured, and free from apparent effort.

The key is that our singing technique needs to be so ingrained that we can concentrate on the business of making music and selling the message of the song. There are a number of things that need to be in place before artistry can happen. These include:

- Good breathing technique
- Good tone production
- Matching vowel sounds
- Consistent flow of sound
- Singing the right notes and words
- Conveying the message of the song

Each of these steps builds on the previous steps. Only when the first five steps are automatic can we begin to really convey the message of the song. We have to lose our self-consciousness in more than one sense of the word. First by being sure of our technique, we don't have to worry about getting enough air in that phrase, or how to tune that chord, or what word is coming next. We also need to lose our sense of self and be part of the group (chorus or quartet.) A third meaning of losing our self consciousness is to really get inside the music and sing for the pure enjoyment of it.

Our music team's goal is that each performance be a special musical experience for our audiences and for us. We believe we can eventually achieve artistry in our performances. However, to get there we have to keep working on the basics. Once they are second nature in rehearsal, they will be easy to reproduce in performance.

You'll notice I've listed six steps to artistry above. In next month's ReCHORDer, we'll start a monthly series of in-depth articles about each topic that will take us through the rest of the year. Hopefully that will reinforce what we're learning on Thursday nights.



Harmony University is the largest and most exciting barbershop education week in existence! Over six hundred students last year learned from over sixty great faculty members, and brought home information, ideas, and new-found energy to their

choruses and quartets! You won't find a better faculty anywhere willing to share anything and everything you want to know about barbershop harmony!

Mark July 29 – August 5, 2007 on your calendar! It's a week you don't want to miss, and a week you'll NEVER forget!

For more information, registration forms, and course descriptions, visit www.barbershop.org/harmonyu

Registration costs go up after June 15, so if you are planning on attending, register soon.

Contest pictures are in

Our Spring Contest pictures have arrived. If you ordered one, please bring \$11 (cash or check) and claim yours on Thursday night. If you didn't order one and want one, we ordered a couple extras. They cost \$11, so bring your money Thursday. If you didn't order one and don't want one, they still cost \$11. ☺

Illinois District announces Central Golf Outing

Phil Rolfs, Illinois District President, and Dick Eade would like to invite everyone to a day of fun, sun (hopefully,) golf and fellowship at the beautiful Crane Creek Golf Course on Route 97 in Kilbourne, Illinois (northwest of Springfield.) The outing will be August 15, 2007 and will begin with a "shot gun" start at 9:00 am. Immediately following the outing we will have lunch and an informal "town hall" meeting with Phil for questions and answers. Estimated cost is \$25 for one round of golf with cart rental and \$10 for lunch.

Please make your reservations by Friday June 15. Contact Dick Eade, rweadel@mindspring.com

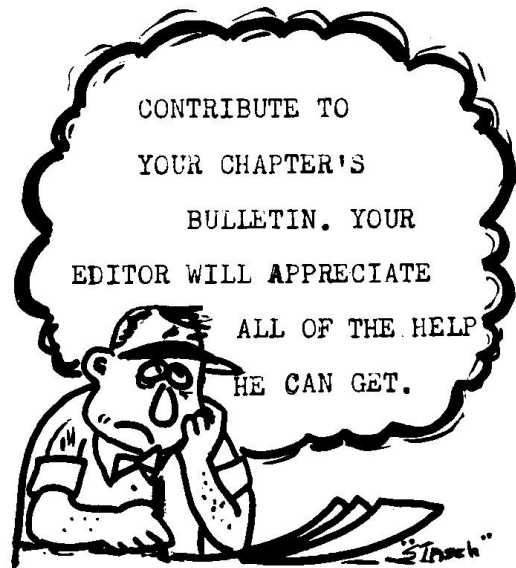
If you have any questions or would like to donate some prizes for raffles please feel free to contact Dick.

Happy Birthday!

June 3, Garry Schuyler
 June 6, Steve Severinghaus
 June 27, Paul Ogle
 June 30, Jorden Brotherton

Barbershop on the web

Illini Statesmen – illinistatesmen.org
 Barbershop Harmony Society – www.barbershop.org
 Illinois District – www.harmonize.ws/ILL
 4-Cast, the Barbershop Podcast – 4-cast.tv
 Links to other Barbershop sites – www.harmonize.com
 Ultimate Barbershop Links – www.harmonize.ws/links/



Deadline for next issue

June 24, 2007

2007 Officers

President, Kevin Swartz
 Marketing & PR Vice President, Paul Stansberry
 Music Vice President, Andy Isbell
 Membership Vice President, Jorden Brotherton
 Program Vice President, Matt Carlen
 Secretary, Dave Sutton
 Treasurer, Denny Mulvany
 Webmaster, Steve Severinghaus
 Immediate Past President, Vern Knapp
 District Delegate, Hugo Feugen
 Chorus Director, Lee Reifsteck

Upcoming Events

June 16 and 23, Market at the Square,
 Lincoln Square, Urbana
 July 1-8, International Convention, Denver
 July 29-August 5, Harmony University, St.
 Joseph, Missouri
 August 15, Illinois District Central Golf
 Outing, Kilborn, Illinois
 August 25, Performance, Hume, Illinois
 September 28-30, District Convention, Peoria

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles were written by the editor, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the chapter. Submissions are welcomed and encouraged at rechorder@illinistatesmen.org, or the return address below.

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