



C-U Re-CHORDer

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Andy Isbell, editor
andy_isbell@hotmail.com

Summer is Here

It's finally summer (well almost...at least it's finally warm.) School is out, vacations are starting and the Illini Statesmen are staying busy.

We've started rehearsing in the choir room at Wesley rather than go to CERL for the summer. We felt it would be easier for guests and students to find us if we stay in the same building all year long. Although the choir room isn't air conditioned, it is in the basement, so we're hoping it will be cool enough. We're also enjoying better lighting and being able to leave our risers up all the time down there.

We do have several activities coming up this month, answering phones for the WILL pledge drive, our booth at the Market at the Square, three performances (so far) and working on our contest tunes for the fall.

Speaking of contest, we have already introduced both contest songs four months before contest, so we should have plenty of time to get them performance ready. We'll be doing two David Wright arrangements: Stars Fell On Alabama, and Birth of the Blues. Stars Fell... is almost memorized by most of us, and we introduced Birth of the Blues last week. We may cut some of the second chorus/tag, but the parts that were introduced last week went pretty well.

So, just because it's summer doesn't mean we're slowing down. We still need you at rehearsals and performances. Come on down, it'll be fun!

WILL Pledge Drive

The Illini Statesmen will be responsible for answering telephones and taking pledge information for WILL (PBS Channel 12) on MONDAY, JUNE 5 from 6:40p - 10:00p.

We will be on television, so please wear your ORANGE T-SHIRT & TUX JACKET. The rest of the outfit doesn't matter as we'll be behind desks. (You can sit there in your boxers, if you want.)

The programming for that night will feature the "Blue Man Group" and Walking the Bible.

Thanks,

Kevin

Market at the Square

Thanks to Kevin Swartz, we have a booth to promote the chorus on Saturday mornings at the Market at the Square held at Lincoln Square in Urbana. If you have some time free on Saturday mornings Kevin would love some help. We could especially use quartets (or a pickup quartet) to sing because that really gets people to notice us. You don't have to know a bunch of songs because there are new people coming through all the time and they won't know if you sang that song a few minutes ago. It's a great way to promote our hobby, maybe sell some show tickets and find new guests to come visit us. Talk to Kevin if you can help out.

Tag Contest Results

Your top three latest and greatest tag writers.

After a several months long opening for people to submit their entry, over 60 people submitted their own original tag for entry into the Society's first-ever Tag Contest. To keep the writers of each tag unknown during the judging process, each person's name was assigned an ID number which replaced the person's name on the tag.

"There is no shortage of great tag writers out there which made this contest incredibly difficult to judge," said Rick Spencer, Director of Music and Education. "We are so fortunate to have such amazing talents out there in our barbershop world."

And the top three are....

- First Place: **Nathan Gutschke** from Shallowater, Texas garnered top prize (two registrations to Indianapolis) for his soft and tender tag entitled, "**This Table Set For Two.**" This one is going to break your heart.
- Second Place: **Pete Benson** from Faribault, Minnesota finished second with a creative composition called "**The Tears Have Left My Eyes.**" Hold onto your hat when you sing this one! Second place received a \$100 Gift Certificate to the Harmony Marketplace.
- Third Place: **Lloyd Steinkamp** from Santee, California rounded out the top three with a tag about the holiday season called "**Isn't This A Lovely Time Of Year?**" Third Place received a \$50 Gift Certificate to the Harmony Marketplace.

Look 'em up on the website in Music Library --

http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/webassets/id_036338.hcst#tags

Each of the top three tags will be taught at this year's International Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Most of the others will be found on the Society website for free use for all singers to enjoy.

Story Behind the Song

"Stars Fell on Alabama" was written by Mitchell Parish and Frank Perkins. Here's some info on Parish.

Mitchell Parish tended to write his lyrics to completed melodies, hits that originated in other languages, or adaptations of classical music. Mitchell Parish was born in Lithuania on July 10, 1900. He came to the United States as an infant and grew up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. He planned to study medicine but changed careers after a doctor gave some of his verses to a music publisher. His first steady employer was the music publisher Jack Mills, who signed him for \$12 a week to write comedy lyrics for vaudeville acts in 1922. In 1928 he had his first hit with "Sweet Lorraine." He followed this in 1929 with his most famous song, the lyric for Hoagy Carmichael's instrumental "Star Dust."

Parish also contributed lyrics to many other songs, including "Sophisticated Lady," "Stars Fell On Alabama," "Deep Purple," "Stairway to the Stars," "Moonlight Serenade," "Ruby," and "Volare."

Mitchell Parish died in New York City on March 31, 1993.

Schedule of Events

- 5 JUNE, 6:40p-10p, Answer Phones at WILL, Orange T-Shirt & Black Tux Jacket
- 17 JUNE, 1:00 pm, Tolono United Methodist Church Luncheon, Lunch Included
- 17 JUNE, 4:00 pm, Tolono Historical Marker, Lincoln Reenactment
- 24 JUNE, Dusk (around 9:00 pm), National Anthem for Tolono Fireworks
- 2-9 JULY, International Convention, Indy
- 26 AUG, Cabaret Show, St. Pat's Urbana
- 29 SEP-1 OCT, Fall Contest, Peoria
- 25 FEB '07, Krannert Show

June Birthdays

- 3rd Garry Schuyler
- 6th Steve Severinghaus
- 27th Warren Royer
- 27th Paul Ogle

2006 Officers

- President, Vern Knapp
- Marketing & PR Vice President, Kevin Swartz
- Music Vice President, Bill Severinghaus
- Membership Vice President, Tom Johnson
- Program Vice President, Andy Isbell
- Secretary, Dave Sutton
- Treasurer, Denny Mulvany
- Immediate Past President, Andy Isbell
- District Delegate, Hugo Feugen
- Chorus Director, Lee Reifsteck

Barbershop Definitions

This list of (mostly humorous) definitions comes from the Harmonet (the YahooGroups email list for anyone that sings or is interested in barbershop music.) Some of them are even new to me! -- ed.

- A & R - Analysis and Recommendation, often called Aggravation and Ridicule.
- Afterglow - A cast party after a show.
- AHSOW - Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders.
- AHSOWHAT - Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders Harboring Apathetic Tendancies....just kidding!
- Ambigesturous - The ability to perform the choreography from either side of the risers.
- Barbershop Brats - Children of barbershoppers, which often become members, a precious commodity.
- Barbershop Squat - a physical stance at the end of a song that looks amatuerish and hokey.
- Barbershop Widow/Widower - The spouse of a very active barbershopper, who doesn't enjoy the hobby themselves.
- Barberteens - Teenaged children of barbershoppers, the smartest of all.
- Barbertots - Young children of barbershoppers, also a precious commodity.
- Bell Chord - notes sung on successive beats as in "Bye Bye Blues" by the Suntones.
- Belt - Sing loudly.
- Big Fat Duck - A lot of resonance.
- Bipartite/Tripartite - Able to sing multiple voice parts.
- Bisectional - A person that can sing more than one voice part...hopefully, not simultaneously.
- Blead - A fifth voice part consisting of part lead and part baritone, usually sung by a member who has been absent for a while.
- Borneo Barbershop - An exercise where the bass is sung an octave high and the tenor an octave low.
- Breathing Dips - Singers who breathe where they are not supposed to.
- Bust a Chord - Same as peeling paint.
- Cascade - A musical device where a unison note spreads to form a chord, also called "waterfall".
- Chestnut - An old familiar favorite song.
- Chinese Seventh - The 2nd inversion of a 7th chord, where the tenor note is under the lead note.
- Chordgasm/Chordasm - The climax of musical stimulation often resulting in goosebumps and raised hairs. See Eargasm.
- Chorditorium - A convention afterglow where non-qualifying quartets can strut their stuff.
- Chordus Interruptus - When the director stops the chorus just before a paint-peeling tag.
- Chordworship - Holding a chord longer that necessary just to enjoy it.
- Chorus Dips - Singers who do exactly the opposite of what the director asks.
- Cookie - a pitchpipe.
- Crank - Sing loudly.
- Crow - A self-confessed non-singer who performs mundane chores nobody else wants to do. See Invaluable.
- Diction Dips - Singers who exaggerate the hard consonants.
- Diphthong Dips - Singers who over-emphasize the diphthongs.
- Duck - Resonance.
- Eagles - A politically correct term for "Crows".
- Ear Candy - An audible overtone or harmonic.
- Eargasm - The climax of musical stimulation often resulting in goosebumps and raised hairs. See Chordgasm.
- Energy Cube - A teaching device used by Mr. Larry Ajer, to focus sound and energy in response to an interpretive plan.
- Everglow - A smaller, more private party that takes place after an afterglow.
- Fifth Wheel - Singing along with/near a quartet, but not one of the foursome.
- Float - Blending a part into a chord gracefully, usually tenor.
- Gang Singing - A collection of singers that are not an organized unit.
- Garbage Part - A negative term for the baritone part.
- Glimmer - An after,after,afterglow.
- Going for the bird - Producing overtones.
- Green Gas - A vapor that forms when a situation gets too intense.
- Grigger - John Devine's word for an Eargasm.
- Groaner - A bad joke, story, or pun.
- Grundy - Same as Scissors Movement.
- Gut-Buster - A robust uptune.
- Hang Ten - Standing on the risers with ten toes over the edge.
- Harmonasties - Harmonet posters who incite conflict.
- Harmony Hair - The use of wiglets, falls, and excessive lacquer products, to achieve that "Unit" look.

- Headlights Up!** - Hold your chest high. An instruction by a director (usually Sweet Adelines) to prepare yourself for singing.
- Helmet Hair** - Too much hairspray, akin to "Harmony Hair".
- Honker** - a person who sings loudly and/or in a garish manner, often a bass singer. (See also Laser Lungs)
- Hospitality Room** - A party room at a convention for informal entertainment, socializing, and stale pretzels.
- Hum Spot** - The placement of one's voice that makes the mask resonate.
- Intonationally Challenged** - A Rashleighism for a poor vocalist.
- Kibber** - An endearing term for a barbershopper that prefers to Keep It Barbershop! (KIB)
- Kipp-It** - An instruction to a tenor to belt out a note in full voice.
- Laser Lungs** - a singer, usually a tenor, who sings high notes very loudly and out of balance.
- Lead Dodging** - The art of woodshedding the baritone part, also called Lead Avoidance.
- Leaner** - a person that does not have the courage or ability to sing on his/her own, or is not well rehearsed in the music.
- Mike Testers** - A quartet or chorus which sings at the beginning of a contest to ensure the sound system's performance.
- Oh Yeah** - An utterance from the chorus, when the director says "for the 2000th time, you're supposed to get soft here".
- Oh Yeah Song** - A song with an unfamiliar verse and a very familiar chorus.
- Onion Skin** - A minute adjustment in pitch.
- Opus Interruptus** - When the hotel security guard stops you in the middle of a song, usually at 3am, Sunday morning.
- Overtone** - a harmonic produced by proper intonation, tuning, and vowel formation.
- Patter** - A verbose variation on the theme of a refrain as in "Down Our Way", also jokes and stuff between songs.
- Peeling Paint** - Locking and ringing a chord.
- Pick-up Quartet** - any four singers, not an established quartet, singing a song they commonly know. I.E. Barberpole Cat song.
- Ping** - Focused, bright ringing sound.
- Pitch It Higher and Sing It Louder** - A sarcastic phrase directed to a foursome who are already singing too high and too loud.
- Post** - a note, long in duration, sung usually by a lead singer, around which a tag is formed.
- Push-out Quartet** - Four guys start a song and you replace a given singer with yourself.
- Rip Face** - Imagining a handle on the face of your audience and ripping their faces off. Yuck!
- Riser Rat** - any chorus member who is not in the front row.
- Round Robin** - An activity wherein four or more woodshedders sit in a circle and progressively rotate voice parts.
- S.P.** - Old judging category called Stage Presence and/or a term for choreography.
- Scissors Movement** - Two voice parts that cross each other, while the other two voice sustain, leading to an inversion of the chord.
- Shoulder-Raiser** - A listeners physical reaction to a singer who doesn't quite reach his/her note.
- Singlish** - A method of singing a song as if one was speaking the part, phonetically connective.
- Skunk Song** - A melody essentially useless for woodshedding purposes, because of an existing familiar arrangement.
- Slab** - to sing slowly through a measure chord by chord, also called blocking.
- Sleeping Around** - Secretly singing with three other people in order to establish a new/better quartet.
- Spank** - Great vocal execution as in "Boy that lead spansk!"
- Sweet Spot** - the optimum range in one's vocal range.
- Tag** - The ending of a song, too often over-arranged.
- Tag Quartet** - Four singers begin a song and one by one are replaced by a new singer, tagged out if you will.
- Tear-jerker** - A tender, sentimental ballad that evokes emotion.
- Tiddly** - a musical embellishment usually by a baritone.
- Toe-Tapper** - An uptune with great rhythmic pulse.
- Train Wreck** - when one or more parts sings a wrong note, the resulting chord sounds like railway calamity.
- Transsectional** - Same as Bisectional.
- Tune Bucket** - A vessel which some people cannot carry.
- VLQ** - Very large quartet or mini-chorus, if you will.
- Wall of Sound** - Seamless, continuous vocalization.
- Whomp-Squeak Ratio** - The ratio of resonance to ping in the voice.
- Woodshed** - To improvise your part in a song, hopefully not melody.
- Yawner** - A very boring and poor performance of a song.
- Yodel-Chord** - A phenomenon in woodshedding, where two voices land on the same note and simultaneously move to the missing part.
- Yodeling** - an attempt to find one proper note, see woodshedding.