



Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 23 Number 3

www.madhatterchorus.org

April Showers 2016

NED Division Contest Comes to Danbury

By Dick Zang

On March 18th and 19th choruses and quartets from the Mountain and Yankee Divisions found their way to White Hall on the WestConn Downtown Campus for a couple of days filled with good singing and fellowship. As the host chapter, the Mad Hatters found out first hand that putting on a contest takes a lot of work that many competitors are unaware of. Fortunately for us, the NED has an experienced Convention Team that took care of all the planning and made sure things ran smoothly. The college staff was on hand and very cooperative in helping us find our way around the facility.

The events started on Friday evening at 7:00 PM with the quartet contest and our own Joe Hudson as emcee (or presenter in BHS-speak). That contest was memorable in several ways.

First, the twelve quartets presented 23 different songs – that means there was only song we had to listen to twice; “Drivin’ Me Crazy” was sung first by Traveling Men and then by I Don’t Know Why for the last song in the contest. We came that close to hearing no repeats.

The second was that the winning quartet in the Mountain Division, This Qualified, swept the awards for Quartet Champions, Most Improved, and Novice with an average score of only 24.4. I guess it helps when you are the only quartet competing.

The Yankee Division Champs were Take 4 from Bridgeport. Off the Chart from Manchester and Westchester took the Senior competition and FIRE AWAY! from Central and Manchester won most improved.

There were two youth quartets that sang for the NED International Prelims – Last Chance with Antonio Lombardi on tenor and Four Notes from over the state line in New York. Their scores placed first and third of all the quartets but they will have to wait for scores from the other NED competitions to see where they stand for the honor of representing the NED

in the Harmony Foundation Youth Quartet Contest in July. All scores are on the NED website.



Spectators entering White Hall for the Mountain and Yankee Division contests.

The afterglow at the Crowne Plaza was a fun time with lots singing and even more pizza.

The one bad thing about hosting the contest was, because we chose to sing last, we didn’t get to hear any of the other seven choruses on Saturday. We later learned that Saratoga Springs beat South Shore Quebec in the Mountain Division and Central finished first in the Yankee Division with Manchester a close second. All choruses qualified for the District contest, to be held in Portland, ME, in October.

In Front of the Mics and Behind-the-Scenes News

By Andy Bayer, “paid-in-string” reporter

The second installment of our three-performance commitment with the Newtown system of the Charter Cable network was taped at our rehearsal venue on Tuesday evening, March 22nd. This followed our debut “holiday” performance with them back in December. There were three major differences in this taping. First, we performed on risers on our own turf - the sanctuary of the Church of Christ, a very “forgiving” locale.

Continued on the next page

Charter Cable

Continued from previous page

Second, we performed repertoire that was more familiar to us as opposed to the “dusted-off” holiday repertoire that we air publicly once or twice a year! Finally, we recorded with breaks, under “cooler lights”, in a well-thought out sequence and without an audience.

There were numerous details that had to be worked out prior to the chorus attempting its first warm-up note on “Breaking Up is Hard to Do”. Charter does not frequently agree to do “on-location” shoots (think of the labor costs involved!) and it is a “big production” for them to do so which involves up-and-down the line approvals---including an on-site pre-production visit to ascertain whether the site will actually support the station’s logistical needs (for example, appropriate circuitry to support lights and cameras, staging area and electrical needs for its control room vehicle, ability to avoid interference with the building’s normal functioning routines, chorus wardrobe choices to complement the surrounding décor, positioning of seats, risers, lights, cameras, etc.).

Nick, Andy and Daryl met with the Charter advance team and it became obvious that one potentially big issue was the weather.....this was still March in unpredictable New England and something we just couldn’t control!

Charter needed building access at mid-afternoon to begin the wiring and studio-like set up required for the taping, which meant that doors would need to be open to allow for their electrical cables and, given that the preference was for our short-sleeve summer attire, performers would be in a space that could be quite uncomfortable.

In addition, there was the additional concern with ambient noise (that would enter from the outside with an open door) that could affect the sound quality.

Unbeknownst to many, the emergency exit door in the sanctuary became the entry point for cables. Thanks to Daryl’s research, a new solid core wood door (with appropriately sized “doggie-style” door openings) was purchased and fit into place (following some hard work on Daryl’s part “hasping” for about an hour so that the door would fit the non-square opening).

Although the day had been uncharacteristically warm, it was definitely cool in the new “studio” by the time the recording was started. I can only imagine what the temperature would have been like if it hadn’t been for Daryl’s expertise and hard work supporting us - even before he proceeded to set-up numerous microphones and other equipment that would support his work on our taping - which even included some words of encouraging wisdom and directing!

Special thanks also go to Jimmy Hopper, Walt Barlow and Dickson DeMarche who made a special trip to the church to get the risers moved into place and set up (following our weekend hosting of the district’s division competition) prior to the arrival of Charter’s production team and a special shout-

out of thanks to Joe Hudson’s dad who went out of his way to get the riser extensions completed earlier than intended.

Once the conversion was completed, our “sanctuary” recording studio provided a very conducive atmosphere in which to perform. We could easily hear one another in this live space, we were not packed together as had been the case in our earlier taping session, we could easily see our conductor and were more easily able to focus on the task of singing with emotion! Numerous positive comments were heard from the production team and even one of the cameramen got so carried away with our rendition of “God Bless America” that a second take was required for that number. Even Daryl, who is not prone to effusive, positive commentary on our performances, was impressed with the chorus’s degree of focus and improvement. Now, that’s saying something!! He even thought we were “well-behaved.” The chorus members said the same about him!

Following the chorus’s performance, three quartets recorded their numbers: Kismet recorded two rousing promos for our appearance on the Charter network; Blue Moon sang “Lone Prairie” and “Swing Down Chariot”; Traveling Men performed “Maggie” and “Yesterday”. Voices were definitely tired by the end of the evening!

It’s amazing how quickly the “tear down” happened (when all is said and done), knowing how long the set-up took at the start - but the building was dark slightly earlier than it would have been on a normal rehearsal evening.

Post-production work began almost immediately the next day with Daryl determining and providing the best takes of the raw cuts that would help Joe determine the running order of the show and then the drafting of intros (by Andy with input from Daryl, Wynn and Joe) that would be used to engage the audience and smooth the transitions between sets of numbers. Many thanks are extended to Andy, Daryl, and Dickson for their expertise and involvement in that process. All materials are now in the capable hands of the post-production team at Charter and they will prepare the show for air sometime between the last week of April and the first week of May preceding our Annual Show. Look to your in-box for details on how to see the on-air version. We have definitely gotten better at this!

“What’s next?” you may ask. Our final appearance on the Charter system (and our first on Comcast) will be taped on Thursday and Friday evenings, April 7th and 8th. Both shows will focus on the history of our 50 years of creating and spreading joy and harmony throughout the Danbury region. Emphasis will be directed towards our upcoming, celebratory 50th annual show, membership and youth outreach.

The chorus will not appear live (in large part due to logistical challenges); we intend to use clips from our most recent taping. It is intended that Blue Moon and/or Traveling Men will provide a live performance, if requested. The Charter system show will appear on its “Local Edition” program; the Comcast show will appear on its show, “Practical Talk Time.” Both shows will air prior to our Annual Show in May.



Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Traveling Men – By Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

The Traveling Men spent the last month focused primarily on the Division contest. However, earlier in March, we did perform for a 70th birthday party down at the Blue Goose restaurant in Milford, CT. We sang unusually well that day and received interest in our performance from the restaurant itself, along with great appreciation from the guests, many of which had Danbury connections.

The Traveling Men were disappointed to score a 748 at Division when a 750 was required to advance to districts. We scored a 64 on "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," which was a high score for us (and included one judge giving us a 67 in singing), but made the error of singing "Drivin' Me Crazy" as our second song without a satisfactory level of preparation on the song, leading to a big disparity between the two. Nevertheless, we felt very proud of our performance on that song.

We are having a lot of fun preparing for several upcoming engagements, including singing at the Chili Cook-Off in Danbury and singing "No More Sorrow" at the Mad Hatter Chorus's annual show in May.

Singing Valentines – Art Cilley

I was in Florida when last month's HATTER CHATTER articles were due and did not get around to submitting any favorite stories from 2016 Singing Valentines. I am a believer in the Procrastinator's Creed, however (Better Late than Never), so I would like to share a few now on behalf of Blue Moon and Traveling Men.

My first and last Valentines of the season were with Blue Moon so I will start with them. The first was to a long-time employee at Brookfield Town Hall named Caroline. Her co-workers chipped in to send her a Valentine for the very good reason that they knew she was a fan of barbershop singing and wanted to cheer her up. We sang in the hallway where a dozen or so people had gathered to join in the surprise. It was a big hit. She sent a thank you email to the whole office the next day, complete with a picture of her and the quartet.

Blue Moon made one delivery at Real Chemistry's request because of a scheduling conflict. It was from Denise in Ridgefield to her husband and children. They all liked the singing but were surprised to find that our inimitable lead, Robert Golenbock, was the kids' pediatrician!

The last one, another fill-in, was also in Ridgefield at a lovely home where the owners were having a cocktail party with two other couples in front of a blazing fireplace.

The wife, Diana, was pleasantly surprised by the singing which I believe was our best performance of the weekend. Since everyone present seemed to enjoy it so much, we sang "Heart of My Heart" as an encore. It turned out that that song brought back fond memories from an earlier time and triggered an emotional response. The couple made a generous additional contribution to the chorus and promised to bring "a busload" of friends to our annual show. Thanks, Real Chemistry!

Traveling Men sang at The Home of Rock and Roll (i95 FM) for the second year in a row at the request of the proprietor of a nearby deli. Lou, one of the morning show DJs, has a reputation for feeling acutely uncomfortable when sung to by a person or persons of the same gender.

His "friend" at the deli decided it would be funny to send a quartet to do just that. We were happy to play along. This year they were ready for us and filmed the event. Not sure what they are going to do with the film, but we had a good time. We went to the deli afterwards and sang for the proprietor also.

We made two other unscheduled appearances in between deliveries. One was for departing Mad Hatter member, Al Paparesta, who was not home, but we happily sang to his wife, Eileen, instead. We wish them all the best in Florida. The other was to longtime member Carl Zlamany who has been inactive recently for health reasons, both his and Betty's. He was in good spirits when we arrived and in good voice when he sang with us. We hope to see them at the annual show if not sooner.

It's fun to sing for our wives and girlfriends too. The married members of Traveling Men sang at a Boston Market, an evening law school class at Quinnipiac University, and a Lion's Club luncheon for their better halves. The reaction of the innocent bystanders is often as enthusiastic as that of the intended recipient.

Singing Valentines are a great way to spread joy and harmony as well as to raise much needed funds for chorus activities. It was nice to have four different quartets involved this year. Here's hoping even more participate next year.

NED 2016
Spring 2
CONTESTS

Eastern Regional
Granite & Pine / Patriot
DIVISIONS
April 29-30
NASHUA (North)
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Contest Venue	HQ Hotel
Nashua High School North	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
8 Titan Way	9 Northeastern Blvd.
Nashua, NH 03063	Nashua, NH 03062



Three Things

It is a Mad Hatter tradition, following a coaching session, for each chorus member to note three things they can take and build on from the session. Following is the combined list from our recent session with Joe Hunter.

- Lift phrase endings. It will propel you into the next phrase, add excitement, and no doubt, help the pitch.
- As Joe has said about the soft part in "It's a Brand New Day," when singing at reduced volume, emphasize the phrase by expressing the consonants to carry the intensity.
- Energize phrase endings.
- Sing conversationally.
- Don't clamp down quickly at the end of a powerfully delivered phrase, just let it go "like a Frisbee" sailing into the wind.
- Maintain strict focus throughout the two short competition songs because the mood and the message are so dramatically different that it requires a concentrated shift in delivery mode. We need to switch both our singing and our mood quickly from bright and brassy to soft and sweet if we are going to convince the audience (and the judges).
- Sing lyrical phrases, not disconnected syllables and words.
- Maintain emotional intensity, especially so when singing softly.
- Remember the timing changes in "thinking of," "feel your tender lips" and "if you love me too."
- Tenors, just keep doing what you're doing. It's great. (wait, did Joe say that?).
- Joe Hunter is a terrific coach.
- "May I Never Love Again" is like a square block of marble. We are Michelangelo. The truth (David) is already in there, we just need to chisel off the excess.
- If we allow our emotional energy and focus to leave us for only a moment on "May I Never Love Again," the whole song becomes dull.
- On the false tag in brand new day, the baritone's first note is a seventh, so it can't be too loud or bright.
- The end of the phrase is where the "real" music is made... so don't short change your audience! Use the end of each phrase to propel you into the next one.
- When you sing "It's A Brand New Day" with a sense of excitement throughout... it stays vibrant, in-tune and in pitch!
- Use crisp consonants to make the soft part of "It's A Brand New Day" purposeful, and not just "look we can sing soft."

Baritone Deep Thought

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

It's Showtime!.....Annual Showtime – 2016 Edition

By Andy Bayer, "strung-out" reporter

I can't believe that the final preparations for the 2016 Annual Show are already upon us! The Chorus kicked off its program book ad sales project at the March 29th rehearsal. Chorus members received their materials and a pep talk as to the importance of making a full commitment to this effort---even if it resides outside of one's natural comfort zone.

As much fun as we have ringing chords, singing at rehearsals, and performing for others, there is a necessary 'business side' to this 'hobby' which makes our fun possible! The chorus is operating on a \$21,000 budget this year. President Danny Anderson will make a presentation to the chorus shortly explaining the sources of income and the nature of this year's expenses. Suffice it to say, that a major source of our chapter income is derived from the annual show (principally from ad sales for the program book and ticket sales from the public). The proceeds from our show make the existence of our chapter, as currently run, a viable organization.

Among the materials shared with chorus members were a listing of things to do when approaching a solicitation. These suggestions will help the chorus member reduce anxiety. In addition, I offered to help any members engage in a role play as a way to practice a solicitation and alleviate the fear factor (contact me via phone: 203-7888-7894 or email: abayer624@comcast.net to arrange for one). In lieu of that, I suggested that one practice with a spouse, son, daughter or significant other.

In addition, I distributed an inventory list of past advertisers, the number of years they have placed an ad in our program book supporting our show, and which chorus member had sold the ad. I pointed out that a number of our high volume ad producers have retired from active service to the chorus and it is now up to the rest of us to pick up the slack and call upon these past advertisers or cultivate new ones with whom each member might have a more personal contact or business relationship.

There have been a number of changes to the ad sales initiative this year:

We are working within a compressed sales schedule - just four weeks - from March 29th thru April 26th rehearsals. It is important to get started right away and to hand-in ad sales forms at the next rehearsal following the purchase. Prompt and effective comp ticket distribution is dependent upon it.

Comp tickets will no longer be given out to ad purchasers by chorus members due to WCSU protocols. This will prevent us from either over or under selling the venue's capacity and will help us keep track of how many ad purchasers attend our show.

Continued on the next page

Ad Sales

Continued from the previous page

Chorus members will need to fill-in the number of comp tickets available to the vendor on the vendor receipt (bottom half of ad sales form) and to inform him/her of the telephone number to call in order to secure their comp ticket(s) which will either be e-mailed or snail-mailed to them

Due to limited seating at the venue, the chorus member needs to recommend that the vendor call and reserve his/her comp ticket(s) just a few days following the Tuesday rehearsal at which the form will be turned in to the chorus. Each collection Tuesday evening, we will photocopy the forms turned in and will drop them off at the WCSU box office within the next two days so they can update their database of potential comp ticket recipients and the number of comps to which they are entitled. It is essential that members turn in their forms the very next Tuesday following the purchase versus holding on to them until the last collections week.

Collection of ad sales forms will be made at Tuesday rehearsals between April 5th and April 26th during a break-time that will be extended from 10 to 15 minutes, as necessary. Brian Robbins will take the lead in the collection and transfer of information from our ad sales form into our electronic spreadsheet. Lee will aid in this process as his schedule permits. This will be done from one of the classrooms adjacent to the fellowship rehearsal space to avoid any distraction/pressure to Brian and eventual need to restart the post business-meeting portion of our rehearsal.

Please be certain to complete all portions of the ad sales form - especially those asterisked items which will be used by the WCSU Box Office personnel to verify those vendors entitled to receive comp tickets and the number of comp tickets to which they are entitled.

If, following your best efforts at securing an ad, the vendor declines, we urge you to offer him/her the opportunity to make an angel contribution to the chorus that will result in their name appearing in the program book publication as an angel of the chorus and supporter of our 50 years of spreading joy and harmony throughout the Danbury region. We encourage the amount of contribution to be \$20 dollars, but we will accept no less than \$10. You will need to secure the company's name, snail and email address, and the amount of the contribution so that we can send an acknowledgement to them for tax purposes

Angel contributions will be collected on Tuesday evenings in the rehearsal space during our break time. All angel contributions need to be handed in to Dickson with the details noted above since we are keeping ad sales and angel contributions separate. We are hopeful that all members will see it in their hearts to also become angel contributors at this special time in our chorus's history!

Ad sales forms are printed in yellow for a reason (to distinguish the original from the copy (which goes to the WCSU box office). You have been given a starter pack of 5. Additional forms are available at rehearsals. Feel free to take as many as you think you need when at each Tuesday evening rehearsal.

Please thank the vendor for his/her ad or for his/her consideration (if they do not place an ad or make an angel contribution) and ask if you can post a flyer about our Golden Anniversary show or leave them one to post in their facility.

Please remember that a successful ad sale program and angel contribution solicitation will mean that our chorus can continue its efforts to improve and grow from strength to strength.



Emails to the Editors

Please e-mail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at jbrad1313@earthlink.net, or the Chatter editor, Dick Zang, at jezang@charter.net. If your e-mail appears, you will receive an autographed picture of our 2008 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award

I just started singing in a college choral group and I need to sing falsetto. Our director keeps telling me I'm shouting when I reach for high notes. The problem is, but I don't have a falsetto register. Do you have any tips that might help me develop one?

Wes from Western Connecticut State University,

Wes, Some men feel that they don't have any falsetto register. They really do, but because of seldom use, it may be very undeveloped. Here are some tips from a vocal coach, Dr. Pianissimo Capriccioso.

At most pitches your falsetto should come out very easily and lightly. Don't tense your vocal cords. Relax, think a high pitch and blow out air until a pitch comes. It should come out very easily though initially you may want to reject the sound. Don't! Instead, Experiment!

If you still have trouble getting into your falsetto, here are some ways of finding it.

- *Squeal and then sustain that squeal pitch.*
- *With much energy say "Whee," sliding up high.*
- *Yawn and then blow out a note with the stronger breath.*
- *Try to yodel a couple of notes.*

Wes – I'm a baritone and I sing along with Johnny Mathas CDs to help improve my falsetto. So, once you find your falsetto, get a Johnny Mathas CD. Of course, being college age, you probably have no idea who Johnny Mathas is.



Repertoire Notes

From In Tune - Contributed by John Reimer, Hunterdon Chapter (Flemington, NJ).

“Shenandoah,” is this song about a river, a valley, or...?

By 1800 trappers and traders of beaver fur travelling by canoe had regularly penetrated the dense American forest as far west as the Missouri River. In the silent wilderness singing was an important part of their culture. Their voices were always available and musical instruments were expensive and fragile.

These loners sometimes married Native American women. Some lyrics from the early 1800s tell the story of a trader who fell in love with the daughter of the Oneida Iroquois pine tree chief, Oskanondonha (1710-1816). Also called John Skanandoa, the chief lived in what is now central New York State. He was a co-founder of the Oneida Academy, which became Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, and is buried on the campus grounds.

Human labor was all there was in the early 19th century. Flatboatmen who poled, rowed and hauled their loads on the Missouri River used songs to make their boring backbreaking work more interesting. The boatmen’s song became popular as a sea chanty found its way down the Mississippi River to American clipper ships and thus around the world. By the mid 1800s, as North America became more civilized, it was written down in several collections of early American songs.

Oskanondonha, although based in New York, led hundreds of Oneida and Tuscarora warriors in support of the American rebels on the frontier during the Revolutionary War. According to one account, General George Washington named the valley (and river), both of which lie almost entirely in his home state of Virginia, in honor of the “pine tree chief.” In 2015 “Our Great Virginia” which uses the melody of “Shenandoah” was designated by the Virginia Legislature as the official traditional state song of Virginia.

The Director’s Den

By Joseph Hudson

Sing with resonance and brightness, while still singing word sound to word sound and not note-to-note. These are the things we are trying to accomplish every time we sing. I did some research to find the best example of this style of singing, and what I came up with was the BEL CANTO style of singing.

So, what is BEL CANTO?

BEL CANTO is the Italian vocal technique and style of the 18th and early 19th centuries, with its emphasis on beauty of sound, thus the term, which literally means “beautiful singing.” More specifically, it is the method of singing a line of music with great “legato” or smoothness. It is a highly



artistic technique and the only proper one for Italian opera and Mozart.



There are many associations with the term BEL CANTO as with many terms having to do with singing. Legato phrasing, a rounded tone and immaculate articulation are just three to mention. What is important is the foundation that this method can provide for a strong vocal technique for ANY KIND of singing.

So, every time you sing, make sure you produce a clear, open tone and sing smoothly. We will be working in the coming months to do this, so be prepared!

The President’s Podium

By Danny Anderson



The spring contest is over and now our focus is on our 50th anniversary annual show in May. But before writing about the show, I’d like to thank Bob Bradley, Vice President of Events of the Northeastern District, members of the NED events team and all the Mad Hatter volunteers, chapter members and wives who worked hard to make the contest a success. I do hope that in the future, if the contest format continues as is, there will be more contestants and audience members present.

Also, congratulations to all the Mad Hatters who took part in the competition, chorus members and quartets. Perhaps the scores were not as high as we would have liked, but we all performed well and I think we all had fun. After all, that is why we participate in this hobby.

Now on to the annual show.

It is very important that we all take part in selling ads for the program book. We want to continue to have coaches help us to improve and we have the fall contest in Maine and other expenses to cover. If everyone takes part, selling ads and getting friends, family, coworkers, neighbors and anyone else to buy tickets, the show will be a financial success. I know Joe Hudson will do his best to make it a musical success.

We also need all chorus members to attend each weekly rehearsal leading up to the show and come prepared. It’s very important that we rehearse as a full chorus. It’s very important that we come to rehearsal knowing our notes and words. If we are on the risers thinking and worrying about words and notes, we can’t perform as well as I know we can.

I’m looking forward to May 7! Get out there and sell ads and tickets. It’s great to be a Danbury Mad Hatter barbershopper. Let’s share it with as many people as possible.



March Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Generalissimo Danny Anderson at 6:15pm on March 1, 2016, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report was emended. We did not yet adopt the proposed budget, but we're working on it. As emended the report was received on a motion by Andy Bayer, seconded by Art Cilley.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer is out of town. We are not suspicious – yet. The postcard from Mar a Lago didn't worry us at all.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We are awaiting two returning guests to consider membership. The proposed Guest Night is May 17th.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We are planning upcoming interview and singing shows on Charter and Comcast. Charter will also be recording us at our rehearsal hall.

We hope that when members see our budget and our outlay (~\$20,000), they will be more encouraged to participate with show ticket and ad sales and Singing Valentines.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The Committee met two weeks ago. There was a discussion about performances for contest. We chose "It's a Brand New Day" and "May I Never Love Again" for the spring contest. The chorus is on track for the annual show. If the VLQ is not prepared, quartets will need to step up.

For the 2017 annual show and contest, we are thinking of Richard Rodgers music and an Elvis set. We intend to have Joe Hunter coach us before the contest and before the show. Joe mentioned another Saturday with Kirk Young while Joe works with someone to improve directorial skills.

OLD BUSINESS: We are preparing to host the spring contest. We have volunteers to help out, including four of the wives so far.

We calculate that we did 41 singing Valentines. We're grateful to everyone who participated by singing or soliciting a valentine.

Walt and Peter are prepared to run our annual show. We handed out vouchers for the show to recipients of Singing Valentines. We need to set up a system for redeeming those vouchers. We need to invite various politicians to our Fiftieth Anniversary Show. We are still looking for a stage manager.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chili Festival, a fundraiser for the Danbury Westerners Baseball team, is on April 3. We have the opportunity to set up a booth as well as sing. We are also looking at the Pets and Paws Fundraiser to be held on June 4th at the Elk's Hall.

We considered having another Standing Ovation review for 2016. It was valuable last year but may be redundant this year.

Harmony College is again offering chorus coaching. Unfortunately we do not get a large enough contingent of members to make the coaching useful. The consensus of the Board was to skip chorus coaching.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Griffin, Nick Godano, Gordon Matthew Thomas Sumner.

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, A. Bayer, W. Wilcox, P. Daubner, J. Hopper, A. Cilley, R. Golenbock.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm . Next meeting April 5th.

Music Committee Notes

Submitted by Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

The music committee has been very busy working to assess the division contest and our recent charter taping and to prepare for the annual show.

We have announced that there will be a rehearsal for the alumni chorus at 2:00 pm on the day of the annual show, at the Church of Christ on Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury.

We are discussing possible focuses for future contest sets and for the 2017 annual show. Among the proposals we are considering are an Elvis set and a set featuring the music of Richard Rogers.

We continue to contemplate ways of effectuating a more consistent improvement in the chorus, from re-instituting the "skill of the month" to voice testing members to redistribute parts to renewing our focus on recruitment.





District and Society Notes



2016 Nashville International Harmony Platoon

Experience the JOY and EXCITEMENT of quartet singing & Friendly COMPETITION.

Compete in ANY one or ALL of four Luck-of the-Draw Contests:

- Tue, July 5th at 3:00pm.
- Thur, July 7th at 4:30pm (Immediately after the Quartet Semifinals).
- Thur, July 7th at 7:30pm.
- Sat, July 9th at 3:00pm (Immediately after the World Harmony Jamboree).

You MUST learn all four (4) of these “judge verified” MODERATE DIFFICULTY songs, and learn them COLD, to compete in the contests. NOTE: These are NOT “EASY.” You will have to WORK to BE PREPARED to sing all four. Register now for access to tracks and charts.

\$25 gives you:

- Access to four LEARNING TRACKS, and one FULL-MIX, for each of the 5 songs. (25 tracks!).
- More QUARTET SINGING than you ever did at a convention (before Platoon came along).
- A quality QUARTET CHALLENGE that is exciting, fun, and memorable.
- NEW FRIENDS from all over North America who can't wait to sing with YOU! (“Dance Card” provided).
- Official color-coded Harmony Platoon Lanyard to locate other HP singers ALL WEEK.

Payment:

www.Paypal.com

- \$25 to don@rosye.com preferred.
- US Mail: \$25 US payable to Don Salz, 6955 N. Durango Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89149.

Information:

- Don Salz don@rosye.com – email recommended.
- Phone – (916) 813-2959 NOTE: phone replies may be delayed due to travel and senility.

www.harmonyplatoon.org

Reason Number 2 to come to the New England Harmony Brigade Rally in September

It's like "speed dating" for serious quartet men!

When was the last time you were able to "try it on" with three guys from outside your chapter who might also be serious about quartetting? Was it easy? Or did you just call "the usual suspects" and get the usual answers.



At New England Harmony Brigade's rally, there will be over one hundred men, all of whom have indicated a serious interest in quartetting. And you (and they) will know twelve songs note and word perfectly that you can try together. You will literally have the opportunity to sing in dozens of combinations, to "see how it sounds". Then if you like the way it does sound, you can get together after the rally.

If you are yearning to be in a good quartet, and believe you "have the chops" to do it, then why sit on the sidelines? Join us this September 16th-18th and discover why Brigaders are so excited about these events. Go to www.nehb.net, read the prospectus, and apply to come to the Rally the weekend of September 16th-18th, 2016 in Marlborough, Mass. You won't regret it.

Don't wait! If you apply now, you will get your music in April along with everyone else, and have close to five months to learn the songs.

Yours in Harmony,
Lee Daum
781-248-3428
president@nehb.net

**Harmony Explosion Camp
Northeast 2016**

AUGUST 4-7, 2016

Worcester State University
486 Chandler Street • Worcester, MA
01602

A Young Singer's Best Weekend Of The Year!



Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

What did the barbershop baritone say when she saw a box of Cheerios? "Wow! Doughnut seeds."

• • •

A barbershop quartet was sentenced to exile in the desert for singing poorly at contest. Each man could only bring one personal item with him.

"I'm bringing a loaf of bread, so when I get hungry, I'll have something to eat," said the lead.

"I'm bringing a bottle of water so when I get thirsty, I'll have something to drink," said the bass.

The baritone proudly said, "I'm bringing a car door, so when it gets hot, I can roll down the window."

• • •

A new teacher, who happens to be a barbershop baritone, was trying to make use of his psychology courses. He started his class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Larry stood up. The teacher said, 'Do you think you're stupid, Larry?'

"No, sir, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"

• • •

A barbershop baritone was coming home from work in the city, driving country roads to get home. He looked in his rear view mirror and saw an ambulance. He pulled over and, as the ambulance passed, saw the the back door open a little. The ambulance went over a bump and out fell an ice chest. The baritone rushed over to the ice chest and opened it up. Inside was a human toe in the ice. He saw he couldn't catch the ambulance, so he got in his car and rushed to the nearest gas station to call 911. The 911 operator told him they would send a car right away, but all of the local police cars were in use and he'd have to wait 20 minutes.

So he waited 20 minutes until the toe truck showed up.

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Regular Repertoire

Tonight, Tonight
Come Go With Me
Drivin' Me Crazy
May I Never Love Again
Daydream
Happy Together
Blue Velvet
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Shenandoah
Bye-Bye, Love
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Beach Boys Medley

In Progress

So Many Voices Sing America's Song
Long and Winding Road
It's A Brand New Day
She Got the Gold Mine (I Got the Shaft)
I'm Sitting On Top Of The World
You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby
Here's A Quarter, Call Someone Who Cares ...

Patriotic/Inspirational

God Bless America
I Believe
Lord's Prayer
Star-Spangled Banner
This Land Is Your Land/
America The Beautiful Medley



The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

104 Lexington Blvd, Bethel, CT 06801
203-744-9480

President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox
Director Emeritus:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Art Cilley
Music VP:	Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Vacant
Member at Large:	Peter Daubner
Member at Large:	Walter Barlow
Member at Large:	Jim Hopper
Immediate Past President	Robert Bradley
Uniform Chairman:	Andy Bayer
Harmony Foundation	
Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Peter Daubner
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, Hatter Editor	Dick Zang, Chatter Editor
39 Beekman Drive	2 Camelot Crest
Lake Carmel, NY 10512	Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Jbrad1313@earthlink.net	jezang@charter.net

Proofreader: Miss Taralily

The editors of the Hatter Chatter welcome submissions from all chapter members and friends of the Mad Hatters. E-mail, mail, paper airplane us your thoughts, observations, opinions, singing tips and whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

Mark Your Calendars

Coaching Session

April 19, Regular rehearsal.

**Annual Show (information compiled by Joe Hudson).
Saturday, May 7, 2016. WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center, 43 Lake Avenue Ext., Danbury, CT Times**

- Rehearsal for the finale at 2:00pm (Church of Christ).
- Warm-up/Arrive at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at 4:30pm.
- Mic Checks, Run Through Finale, Start and Stops.
- Show Begins at 7:30pm.

Performance Attire

- **Mad Hatters: TBD.**
- **Reunion Chorus Members: White Long Sleeved Shirt, Black Pants, Black Shoes, Solid Colored Straight Tie.**



Show Order

- The Old Songs
- It's A Brand New Day
- May I Never Love Again
- I'm Yours VLQ
- Blue Moon Quartet
- Real Chemistry Quartet
- Traveling Men Quartet
- Beach Boys Medley
- Long And Winding Road
- Drivin' Me Crazy
- GQ Set
- You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby
- I'm Sitting On Top Of The World
- Keep The Whole World Singing
- Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You
- So Many Voices Sing America's Song

Former Had Hatters returning for the Reunion Chorus

**Auggie D'Aureli
Andy Lespearance
Joseph Lewis
Craig Johnson
Paul Just
John Tenaglia
Don Smith
Bob Connolley
Terry Dunkle
Lyle LaPlante
Bill Manion
Joe West**



Performance

Saturday, May 14. New Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan, CT. Warm-up 12:30 PM, sing 1:00 PM.

Coaching Session

May 17, Regular rehearsal.

Performance

Saturday, July 9. An Evening With the Danbury Mad Hatters. Radio City Music Hall, 1260 Ave of the Americas, New York, NY. Warmup 6:30 PM. Sing 8:00 PM.

NED Contest (Choruses)

Saturday, October 22. Westbrook Performing Arts Center 471 Stroudwater Street, Westbrook, ME. Details to be announced.

