



The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus

Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

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December 2012

Fedora Foursome Fields First Honor

By Dick Zang

The new teal chorus shirts proved lucky for Loco Fedora at the Northeastern District semi-finals in Portland, Maine, on October 19. Although the foursome didn't get to compete on Saturday night, their Friday night set was good enough to win the most improved quartet trophy. They scored a 61.6 on two songs, "Don't Blame Me" and "Kentucky Babe," which put them in 16th place out of 21. The more encouraging result was that their singing score was the 9th best on Friday night.

On Air took the top quartet prize, just nosing out Downtown Crossing with a 75.0 average score. The Sounds of Concord ran away with the chorus competition, singing "If I had my Way" and "Looking at the World Through Rose Colored Glasses." Trade Secret was the Senior Quartet champion, scoring a 71.3 average singing "On a Slow Boat to China" and "Just in Time."

"It's Only a Paper Moon" was the most popular song of the weekend – we heard it four times. We only had to listen to "Ain't Misbehavin'" three times.

All in all it was another fine convention. Thank you to the hosts from Portland – the Downeasters Chorus. The big show on Saturday night was good one and the afterglows on both nights were a lot of fun. Our Mad Hatter chorus had to drop out of the contest due to a shortage of leads that could make the trip. It was unfortunate that we had to cancel – we have been singing well and we had the new shirts to go with our new sound.

Mad Hatters Go International

For the last several weeks the chapter has welcomed a guest from Mumbai, India. Willie Mendonsa is a Barbershop Harmony Society member who started a quartet with his brothers ten years ago. His group, all Frank Thorne members, has now grown to a full-fledged VLQ with ten singers.

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Loco Fedora performs at the Northeast District Convention in Portland, ME. With only one hat the quartet wondered if they are now Loco Fedoras. Photo by Steve Salamin – Keene, NH.

Chorus Christmas Spectacular Succeeds

By John Bradley

Danbury, CT – All that was missing was Santa as the Mad Hatters opened the holiday season on December 1 with *Home for the Holidays*, the Mad Hatters' first annual Christmas show, held at the Church of Christ in Danbury.

Mixing traditional carols with a variety of seasonal favorites such as "Jingle Bells" and "Feliz Navidad," the chorus entertained over 50 people who sang along with considerable energy. Joining the barbershop chorus on stage were three of the four chorus quartets, Rare Occasion, Traveling Men and Loco Fedora, along with a men's a cappella group from Western Connecticut State University, the Parallel Fifths.

Members of the chorus were especially pleased to see our assistant director and barbershopper for 51 years, Don Sutherland, in the audience.

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Christmas Show

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According to one young fan, Charlie, who walked over to a couple of chorus members after the show, "Thank you. That was great."

We figure Charlie will be a barbershopper in a few years, once his voice changes.

Special thanks to Jim Hopper for filling in as director as Joe Hudson was beginning his journey into parenthood.



*The Mad Hatters warming up before Home for the Holidays.
Picture by Terry Dunkle.*



The Mad Hatters and the Parallel Fifths. Picture by Terry Dunkle.

Mad Hatters Muster Once More in Macy's

By Bob Bradley

Danbury, CT - Madhatters dressed in colourful christmas finery, performed at Macy's in the Danbury Mall on Friday evening, November 30. As a former Gimbel's executive, I was happy to see that Macy's was as cutting edge as ever, placing a men's chorus in the ladies shoe department. At least we were close to lingere, which was to our right, as we sang of the holiday season.

After our first song I noticed a black pump flying toward us from an unnamed individual who looked like the Grinch.

We carollers did our holiday set within record time and headed on our own to the men's department on the main level where we repeated our performance, singing to a sweater display. After looking at the display for over 15 minutes, Macy's will be happy to know that I purchased a neat white fisherman knit that was 40% off.

Macy's played Santa to our group by giving us some cologne and a Duncan Donuts gift certificate in a little red gift bag.

The Madhatters left Macy's that evening, full of holiday cheer and smelling much better than when we arrived.



Macy's Santa Claus preparing for work.

Former Mad Hatters to Appear in Toronto

A hearty congratulations to Daryl Bornstein and Dave McKee and the entire Westchester Chordsmen on being invited to be the mic testers at the 2013 international Contest in Toronto!

Good Things Happen in Threes

Baritone Wynn Wilcox is not the only new father losing sleep. Anthony Joseph Hudson was born to Joe and Liz in November. And, Dr. Robert Golenbock is a grandpa. Amelia Dora was born to the Doctor's daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Tim Schneekloth, on November 17. She weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces. According to Bob, "She sings a little but spends most of her time working on neuro-linguistic programming."

Thank You, Fred

After more than 30 years of dedicated service to the barbershop community and to the Mad Hatters, former bass current tenor and regular *Hatter Chatter* contributor, Fred Baran, has announced that he is suspending his regular attendance to spend more time with pressing family matters. Fred hopes to continue singing intermittently with Rare Occasion but, at this time, he is unable to make the commitment to our chorus rehearsals and sing outs. We thank Fred for his faithful service to our chapter and hope that he will be back soon.



Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran.

On Sunday November 11, we appeared at the Keeler Tavern Museum in Ridgfield to present A Short History of Barbershop in America. This is the third time that we presented this program, having previously done so at the Newtown Historical Society in September, 2011, and the Southbury Historical Society in June of 2012.

The program offers a combination of historical background of barbershop music interspersed with over a dozen songs from our repertoire, demonstrating the evolution of barbershop from the late 1800's up to the present time.

At our appearance in the Garden Room, we found a very appreciative audience who stayed on past the ending of the formal program to hear several encores. They showed a great appreciation for our singing and told us how much they thoroughly enjoyed the music.

Several of the men in the audience also indicated an interest in attending one of our chorus's rehearsals. We came away with a positive feeling that we connected with our audience and they enjoyed our music selections.

On Saturday evening, December 1, we appeared at the Holiday Wine Tasting Party of the New Milford Historical Society. The event was featured as "An Evening of Wine & Song." It was the fifth consecutive year that we were invited to provide the entertainment.

This is one of the major fund raisers for the Historical Society and was well attended by many people from the surrounding area. We sang a mix of holiday songs and other favorites from our repertoire as we wandered from room to room over our two hour performance. Where else can you get to drink wine, eat hors d'oeuvres and sing to appreciative audiences?

We met a young couple from Germany who seemed to really like our music. The lady asked if we could sing "I'll Be Home for Christmas." As we were nearing the end of the song, we noticed that she was wiping away the tears as she reflected on being away from home for the holidays.

Traveling Men – By Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

The Traveling Men fought through logistical and scheduling issues this month, which were exacerbated by their baritone's recently becoming a new father.

The quartet is beginning to adjust to their new lineup of Andy Bayer (Tenor), Danny Anderson (Lead), Wynn Wilcox (Baritone) and Chuck Krieger (Bass). They debuted this new lineup at Ridgefield Crossing this month and are finding times to meet to continue to pursue this promising new configuration

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 2007 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award

As a singer, is beer or wine bad for me?
Billy from Bridgeport

Billy, as we all know, scientists divide everything in the world into three categories: animal, mineral, and vegetable. Beer and wine are not animal, and they are not on the periodic table of elements, so that only leaves one thing, right? And no one would argue that vegetables are bad for you. My advice: Have a burger and a beer and enjoy your liquid vegetables.

My friends and I are thinking of starting a mediocre, informal barbershop quartet. We can't sing great - would we sound better harmonized?
Rick from Ridgefield

Rick, I don't think you guys would sound better harmonized if you can't even sound good singing in unison (everybody singing the same thing) or if you can't sing well by yourself.

What constitutes a "good voice" is a matter of opinion and taste, but what is indispensable for barbershop singing is a sense of pitch. And why would you deliberately want to aim for "mediocre"? If you like to sing and you aren't that good, take some lessons and get better or do karaoke.

International

Continued from Page 1

Willie is an accomplished bass and picked up our repertoire easily enough to join us at several of our recent sing outs.

Willie and his wife Judy are in Danbury visiting his son Shaun and family. Shaun is a Principal Scientist at Boehringer-Ingelheim and, in another of those small-world coincidences, just ran into former Mad Hatter Steve Horhota at a conference in Germany.

Steve e-mailed Bob Bradley with news of the meeting and sent his regards to the chapter and our international visitor (whom he has never met).

We'll see Willie one more time in January after he and Judy return from their holiday visit to their daughter in Florida. We'll be sure to keep to keep in touch with our honorary member at willju.willie@gmail.com.



The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

The weather has been a challenge for us over the past weeks. We lost a sing out and several members were victim to loss of electricity. This caused a number of people to have to miss some practices.

The listing of events for the remainder of the year is in this publication. A review of the events shows that we will be very busy. We ask each week for each member to sign on Grouponizer and indicate your plan to attend these events. This is important for planning purposes.

In addition to indicating your planned attendance, go over to the music section and listen to new songs on Grouponizer. If you are missing some sheet music you can obtain copies there as well.

Plans are moving forward for our First Annual Holiday show. At practice last week we did our first run through of the show. It is important that each member make all the practices as we will run through the show each week. There are several songs in the program that are new this year which needs to be polished.

Advertisement has begun for the show, Wynn and Al have arranged for print, radio and internet advertisement. Joe has provided an email set up for our use to send to our friends concerning the show. Please take advantage of this medium of advertisement. Flyers have been prepared for distribution on bulletin boards etc.

The chorus needs a new picture to use in our advertisement efforts. We plan to make pictures of the chorus at the holiday show. We will be dressing in tuxedo, new shirt, tie and pocket handkerchief. The pictures will appear on the web page, tri folds, and all future print advertisement.

On Friday before the Holiday show we will once again perform at Macy's. When we last performed there we set up a table with information about the chorus. We will be allowed to do this again. During the last performance we made contacts with a couple of perspective members. This is another opportunity to promote our craft.

We will once again be performing at Danbury's First Night. I encourage everyone to be in attendance for this annual event. It is always a fun time and the audience is very receptive, and is once again an opportunity to recruit potential new members.

The Board will be meeting the first Saturday in January for a planning session. We will review what we have done and discuss plans for the coming year. This is open to the membership. An agenda will be forth coming.

The installation dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15th. We will be meeting at the Outback Steakhouse at 7:30. The menu will be announced soon, as usual we will have several

choices of entrees. We will ask you to make a choice beforehand.

Once again I want to encourage each member to spend time each week working on their music. Work on the new music and be prepared to sing - not to learn the music.

November Board of Directors Meeting



Submitted by Robert "New Grand Daddy" Golenbock

Meeting called to order by Danny "Plymouth and Jingle Bell Rock" Anderson at 6:10 pm on November 6, 2012, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was received on a motion by Joseph Hudson, seconded by Art Roberts. All the puns were removed. Although at least one of the ten puns was supposed to make the Board laugh, no pun in ten did.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Andy Bayer. Treasurer Dickson DeMarche noted that he had been banking the BHS dues that was returned to our chapter and wanted further clarification from the Board, as he recently learned that we had been sending all of that money to the Harmony Foundation. He will account for all these deposits and give us a report next month, at which time we can decide what to do.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: One of the Western Connecticut State University a cappella groups is looking to make an alliance with us. We also heard from a member of India's barbershop community that he is planning to sing with us while he is in town.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Publicity "on a shoestring budget" is nevertheless getting out the word about our holiday show. We are depending on our members to put out posters and alert their Facebook buddies. We are planning a pithy lawn sign.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: No meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: We will need to move the risers upstairs for our holiday show. So far we have seventeen members singing, plus possibly another six.

NEW BUSINESS: We will sing at Macy's once again on November 30 at 5 pm. Joe's school in Ansonia has also invited us to sing the children on December 21, as well as an evening that is mutually agreeable for a benefit to raise money for a new playground. We will be singing at St. James Church on First Night, which by mutual agreement will be held on New Year's Eve.

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Board Meeting

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The rehearsal prior to that event will be Thursday, December 27, rather than Tuesday, which is Christmas. Our Installation Dinner this year will be at the Outback Restaurant off Route 84 Exit 8. The date is January 15, at 7 pm.

Our second annual Planning Meeting will be held on January 5 at the Church. We will get started at 10 am. All Board members are requested to attend, and all members are welcome to attend and add their two cents.

The January Board meeting will be held on the 8th instead of the 1st, which, by mutual agreement, is New Year's Day.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D Trump.

OFFICERS PRESENT: A. Bayer (on time!), D. DeMarche, J. Hudson, D. Anderson, R. Golenbock, A. Paparesta, A. Roberts, D. Walter, P. Daubner, J. Hopper, A. Whopper, W. Wilcox

Next meeting will be December 4. Meeting adjourned at 7pm when a quorum still couldn't believe Andy showed up on time.



December Board of Directors Meeting

Submitted by Robert Golenbock

Meeting called to order by Danny "What Fiscal Cliff?" Anderson at 6:10 pm on December 4, 2012, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was e-mailed to the Board twice and handed out at the meeting. And still many preferred to overlook its literary merits. Nevertheless, it was approved (mostly sight unseen) on a motion by Dick Walter, seconded by Al Paparesta.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report consisted mostly of disbursements this month. The lawn signs for our holiday show were a significant purchase, but they should be reusable. The holiday show was a critical success, but not a financial success, just as we expected. At our January planning meeting we will look at our income and outgo over the last three years and try to understand the implications as they pertain to our present cash flow. We will also speak to someone at our bank about being our sponsor and making a substantial donation. The report was received on a motion by Wynn Wilcox, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Art Cilley, who has attended the last three rehearsals and sang with us at our holiday show, was officially approved for membership on the recommendation of Jimmy Hopper. The motion was made by Joe Hudson, seconded by Jim Hopper. Andy Bayer will be getting Art an application.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Our turnout for the holiday show was small, but not unexpectedly so. Buying ads would probably not have changed the attendance dramatically. The time of day was a factor (too early) as well as the time of the month (too early). We also did not get great participation from the nursing homes that we contacted. Apparently our lawn signs were our most successful modality. The public relations team is already working on free ads for First Night and campaigns for the Annual Show and the Singing Valentines.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: We have ordered new music! Our next songs will include "Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia," "Beach Boys Medley," and "Come Go with Me." These are crowd-pleasing up tunes that are fun to sing. If done well, these songs should encourage audience members to join us.

Tentatively our contest songs for the spring division convention are "It's Only A Paper Moon" and "Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia." Learning tracks for the new songs will be posted on Groupanizer as soon as they arrive.

OLD BUSINESS: The talent for our annual show on May 18 is locked in. We need to lock in the date with Western Connecticut State University – either the Ives Auditorium or the Berkshire Theatre on campus. If WCSU is not available, we will look at one of the area schools. We are also inviting NED College champs Timely Gents, who have previously indicated willingness to join us at contest, to sing on our show.

NEW BUSINESS: Members of the Board need to send Danny Anderson suggestions for the agenda of our January planning session.

Joe Hudson told us about how the Central Connecticut chapter allowed any barbershopper who wanted to be on their show to get music and learning tracks to three songs for their finale. They had 65 men on the risers at the end of the evening. If we wanted to do something similar, Tony Nasto offered to bring his entire chorus to our show. They'd be a great audience for the first half and a great addition for the finale. The Board agreed to invite them as well.

The following sing outs will be placed on our calendar: Brookdale on Route 7 in Wilton on Saturday, January 19; a benefit for Joe's school in Ansonia on January 22 at 7 pm; Maplewood in Danbury on Sunday February 17, at 2 pm (warm up); Ed's synagogue in Westchester on Tuesday, April 30.

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Board Minutes

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The Division competition is April 12-13 in Schenectady. Our coaching session is tentatively January 29.

The Board thanks Dick Walter on the occasion of his last Board meeting for his many decades of service to the chapter. He will continue to sing with us and with his quartet, Real Chemistry.

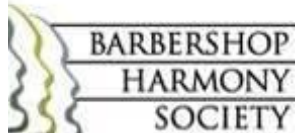
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Kreiger, E. Manning.

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

Next meeting will be the Planning Session on January 5. The regular Board meeting on the 9th is cancelled. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Baritone Deep Thought Of the Month

My quartet mate swallowed a cordless vacuum cleaner. They took him to hospital and he is picking up nicely.



Society and District Notes



Donations Requested

I hope that you will consider giving a donation to the G20 Chorus of Fall River. Most of you saw them hit the stage when our newest chapter won the Patriot Division Contest in April. They came back this year and took second at the Fall District Convention. The group is working very hard to be able to represent us at the Midwinter Youth Festival Chorus in Orlando.

They have approximately 30 young men under the age of 25 in the group. It will take over \$8,000 to get them to Orlando and, so far, through raffles, car washes, and other crazy events, they have raised about \$3,000 on their own.

Why should you make an investment? If you have not been to a Midwinter yet yourself, it will be hard for you to imagine why. So let me paint this picture. Imagine over 600 young men spending the weekend singing, not only with themselves, but also with all generations of other barbershop harmony lovers, including the Top 5 quartet medalists in our District.

What do you think that will do for the retention of these young men to have barbershop harmony be a part of their lives for a long time to come.

You have seen the impact that The Management, and Men In Black have had in a 20 year period. What if there were 30 young men from Fall River, MA, that are hooked? Will they encourage their teachers to include it at school? Will they be excited to tell their friends? I am betting that they will, and I ask you to do the same.

Please write a check for any amount to The G-20 Chorus and send it to:

Diogo Ventura
c/o The G-20 Chorus
43 Stewart Street #1
Fall River, MA 02720

New England Harmony Brigade Rally

Applications are now being accepted for the 2013 New England Harmony Brigade Rally, and this year, you can apply online!

If you want to apply please go to:

<http://www.nehb.net>

Read the prospectus, and fill out the application form. We are expecting even more people this year, because word has spread about what a great time it was. Our music team is hard at work picking out another great selection of songs, and the date is already set for September 20th-22nd, 2013.

A few changes this year:

1). The application form is on the web site and you can fill it out online, after which you only have to mail a check, and you will get directions for where to mail your check once you fill out the application.

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Society and District Notes

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Please be thorough. Any missing information may slow down your application process, and because of the next point below, that is not desirable.

2). We are taking great care to keep the parts balanced. If you apply and we have an oversupply of people on your part, you will be placed on a waiting list until more people sign up for the other parts, thereby bringing things back in balance. If you can sing some other part, and we need singers for those parts, that will get you accepted. but we can only switch you back if it is possible to do so.

3). We can now take credit cards via Paypal, but it will cost slightly more, to accommodate the "up charge" that Paypal charges us.

As most folks know by now, the Brigade Rally was a tremendous success last year, and we anticipate more people this year. For that reason we ask that you apply early and send your deposit to our treasurer as soon as possible. Your application can not be considered until the treasurer has received your check.

Thank you! I look forward to hearing from you and singing with you this year.

Lee Daum
lee.daum@nehb.net
35 George St.
Arlington, MA 02476 781-643-7468

A Boat to Bermuda!

Let's Take A Boat To Bermuda! That's right. As a way to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society next year, we will be sailing from Boston to Bermuda with the 2008 NED Quartet Champs "Our Town" (Terry Clark, Larry Tully, Scott Brannon & Jamie Carbone) on Sept. 6-13, 2013.

Those who sail with us will get to sing in our "Cruise Chorus". Norwegian Cruise Lines will let us perform 3 shows on the ship. Plus we'll have a "Sing with the Champs" evening.

Any quartet is welcome to join us on the cruise and sing in the shows. Our very own Steve Tramack is working on the selection of songs that we will be singing onboard the ship. (Think Boston Common Songs). Music and learning tracks will be sent out six months in advance. This is open to BHS, SAI and HI Members.

Steve Isherwood

Meet the New CEO

Isn't this a clever way to use the internet. This will give you a great taste of what our new CEO Marty Monson is like. I got to meet him, this is very real. He got a standing ovation before he even spoke to our group. He generates that kind of energy.

WATCH HERE:

<http://youtu.be/EAad-W3-oPk>

NED Leadership Academy

This is the challenge for you and your chapters and what we hope to support you with at the upcoming Leadership Academy on January 5th. Please come and reinvent yourself and your chapter.

Information is Here!

http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=197

See you there!
Michael Klein
Barbershop Harmony Society
Northeastern District, President

**Northeastern District
Leadership Academy**

YOUR CONNECTION TO: ★ Great Ideas ★ Great People
★ Exceptional Experiences ★ Essential Tools

Saturday, January 5th, 2013
at Worcester State University

2013 Leadership Academy
Saturday Jan. 5, 2013
Worcester State University, Worcester, MA

**Registration and Class Information
Now Available!**

**Northeastern District
Leadership Academy**

Woodshedding - An Introduction

By Toban Dvoretzky, President of AHSOW
(Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders)

"Authentic woodshedding" is the way our Society began -- a tenor, bari and bass harmonizing to a lead's melody without referring to a printed or familiar arrangement. Authentic woodshedding is one of the most productive and fulfilling activities that barbershoppers could choose to do.

The question has arisen: "Is woodshedding an art that one has to be born with, or can it be learned?"

As with most other skills, effective woodshedding is -- and can indeed be -- learned. A basic sense of circle-of-fifths (barbershop) chord-progressions is necessary. Barbershoppers can gain this sense in several ways. Folks with jazz or piano backgrounds have a beginning advantage, as should anyone with a year or two of college-level music theory. Barbershoppers who have sung more than one voice part in their chorus or quartet also have an initial advantage.

Barbershoppers who don't read music, or those whose first or only musical experience began when they entered barbershopping, can also most definitely learn to woodshed. The prerequisite is an understanding of scales and intervals (the space between one note and the next). AHSOW strongly recommends that prospective woodshedders invest in the voice-part-predominant Barberpole Cat tapes produced by the Society. The Barberpole Cat songs are especially strong, pure barbershop, and listening to them intently and repeatedly will impart a strong sense of the "patterns" typical of each of the barbershop voice-parts.

The woodshed lead needs a certain set of skills beyond what he may have learned in chorus rehearsal or for quartet performance. The purpose of woodshedding is to ring chords rather than to sing songs. Thus, the woodshed lead who wishes to find himself most in demand will sing more slowly than he might opt to sing in a performance environment. He will be aware of where harmony-part swipes may or should occur, especially at phrase-endings or where the harmony of the song is changing. He will realize that chords falling on "weak beats" in a measure of music (beats #2 and #4 in 4/4 "foxtrot" meter, beat #3 in 3/4 "waltz" meter) are equally as important to tune/lock/ring as are chords falling on stronger beats.

He will be constantly alert to melody-notes he should "hold" for as long as it takes for one or more harmony-voices to locate a good note. He should ensure that songs are pitched wherever the singing is most comfortable for the participants, especially if someone is off his natural voice-part (e.g., a bass 'shedding the bari part).

The woodshed lead gains credibility and authority when he refrains from singing until the first four-part chord of the song to be woodshedded is locked and rung, with everyone sure of his starting note.

This keeps one or more 'shedders from being lost for several notes or measures before finally getting a harmonic bearing. The woodshed lead needs to listen, too.

The savvy woodshed lead will choose melodies to which written or familiar barbershop arrangements do not commonly exist. This lessens the risk of replicating existing repertoire and enhances the experience and value of truer woodshedding. Especially when one or more harmonizers is new to this art, the woodshed lead will ideally sing a melody through, solo, at least once, before the harmonizers join in. This helps everybody's ears.

Next month we will look at the bass, bari and tenor roles in woodshedding.



Repertoire Notes

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" is a song introduced by Judy Garland in the 1944 MGM musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Frank Sinatra later recorded a version with modified lyrics, which has become more common than the original.

The song was written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. In 2007, ASCAP ranked "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" the third most performed Christmas song during the preceding five years that had been written by ASCAP members.

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was written while Martin was vacationing in a house in Birmingham, Alabama, that his father, Hugh Martin, designed for his mother as a honeymoon cottage. The house was located in the Southside section of the city, across the street from Hugh's mother and right beside his aunt.

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" first appeared in a scene in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, in which a family is distraught by the father's plans to move to New York City for a job promotion, leaving behind their beloved home in St. Louis, Missouri, just before the long-anticipated Louisiana Purchase Exposition begins. In a scene set on Christmas Eve, Judy Garland's character, Esther, sings the song to cheer up her despondent five-year-old sister, Tootie, played by Margaret O'Brien.

When presented with the original draft lyric, Garland, her co-star Tom Drake and director Vincente Minnelli criticized the song as depressing, and asked Martin to change the lyrics. Though he initially resisted, Martin made several changes to make the song more upbeat.

Garland's version of the song, which was also released as a single by Decca Records, became popular among United States troops serving in World War II. Her performance at the Hollywood Canteen brought many soldiers to tears

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

While Bubba and Billy Bob, two barbershop singers, were in the local Wal-Mart, they decided to get in on the weekly charity raffle. They bought five tickets each at a dollar a pop. The following week, when the raffle was drawn, each had won a prize. Billy Bob, a lead, won first place; a year's supply of gourmet spaghetti sauce and extra long spaghetti. Bubba, a baritone, won sixth prize; a toilet brush. About a week or so had passed when the men met back at Wal-Mart. Bubba asked Billy Bob how he liked his prize, to which Billy Bob replied, "Great!, I love spaghetti!"

Billy Bob asked Bubba, "How 'bout you, how's the toilet brush?" "Not so good," replied Bubba, "I reckon I'm gonna go back to paper."

...

One day there was a barbershop baritone who was walking through the forest and got lost. He wandered around for over a week, and was beginning to starve. He spotted a bald eagle who had just caught a fish and chased it, hoping to get it to drop the fish so he could eat it. Then he saw the bird land on a tree stump not far from him. So he picked up a stone to toss at it, hoping the bird would be frightened and fly away without the fish. But, weak as he was, his aim was off and he hit the poor bird square on the head killing it.

"Well," he thought to himself, "no sense letting it go to waste, if I leave it here it will just rot, and it could save my life if I eat it."

So, the baritone built himself a little fire and cooked the eagle. While it was cooking, a ranger stumbled upon the baritone. When the ranger saw what the hungry baritone was up to, the ranger immediately arrested him because, as you know, killing a bald eagle is illegal.

The baritone told the ranger what had happened, and asked for a trial so he could explain the situation to a judge. So, the day of his trial, the baritone told the judge, "Please your Honor, it was a life or death situation! I was lost and starving, and I didn't mean to harm the bird. I only wanted the fish. And when I accidentally killed it, well, I felt terrible but couldn't see any reason to let it go to waste.

The judge listened to the man's story and deemed him not guilty, on the grounds of extenuating circumstances. The man was very grateful, and thanked the judge for his fairness. Then, the judge leaned over and quietly asked the man, "Just between you and me, what DOES a Bald Eagle taste like anyway?" The baritone contemplated this for a moment and then spoke, "Well, it's kind of hard to explain, but, I would say somewhere between a California Condor and a Spotted Owl."

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Performance

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Can You Feel the Love Tonight
From The First Hello
Give My Regards To Broadway
It's Only a Paper Moon
On The Sunny Side Of The Street
Over The Rainbow
River Of No Return
Shenandoah
Somewhere Out There
Ten Feet Off The Ground
There Is Nothing Like A Dame
When You And I Were Young,
Maggie

Patriotic/Inspirational

Amazing Grace
Armed Forces Medley
God Bless America
I Believe
Lord's Prayer
Star-Spangled Banner
This Land Is Your Land Medley

Contest

If I Had My Life to Live Over, I'd
Live Over a Delicatessen
Get Off the Table, Mabel (the two
dollars is for the beer)

In Progress/Upcoming

Almost Like being In Love
Kentucky Babe
Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia
Come Go With me
Moonlight Brings Memories.
Beach Boys Medley



The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

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Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Jim Hopper
Assistant Director:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
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Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Dick Walter
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Harmony Foundation Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Lyle LaPlante
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday
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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 whatever, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

November Milestones

Birthdays:

2 - Al Paparesta
9 - Roseann D'Aureli
11 - Ray Wixted
14 - Dick Walter
28 - Liz Hudson

Wedding Anniversaries:

24 - Lee and Catherine
Smeriglio

December Milestones

Birthdays:

3 - Bob Bartley
4 - Sam Connolly
13 - Patty LaPlante
18 - John Downey
19 - Diane Johnson
25 - Lyle LaPlante
26 - Carolyn Wixted
26 - Joseph Hudson

Wedding Anniversaries:

19 - Bob and Joanne Bartley
21 - Carl and Bette Zlamany
29 - Joe and Liz Hudson

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, December 21: Chapter sing out (Tentative). Prendergast School (Joe's school), Ansonia, CT. 2:00 pm warm-up.

Thursday, December 27. Rehearsal. **Special rehearsal date to replace Christmas Day.**

Monday, December 31 Chapter sing out. **First Night Danbury. St James Church, West Steet, Danbury, CT. Time to be announced.**

Saturday January 19. Chapter sing out. **Brookdale Place of Wilton. 96 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT. Warmup 3 pm sing 3:30.**

Saturday January 5. Strategy Meeting for 2013. **10:00 AM, Church of Christ.**

Tuesday, January 15: Installation Dinner. **Outback Steak House, 116 Newtown Rd., Danbury, CT. 7:00 pm.**

Tuesday, January 22: Chapter sing out. **Prendergast Elementary School Ansonia, CT. Warmup 6:30 pm, Sing 7:00 pm.**

Sunday February 17: Chapter sing out. **Maplewood at Danbury. 22 Hospital Avenue, Danbury, CT. Warmup 1:30 pm, sing 2:00 pm.**

Saturday April 12 & 13: Division Contest. **Schenectady, NY. Details to be announced.**

Saturday, May 18. Chapter Annual Show. **Details to be announced.**



Checkout our Holiday Concert at:

<http://youtu.be/VGVFeKSdA1Y>