



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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February 2012

Chorus Dines, Sips and Sings

By John Bradley

Danbury, CT – On Friday evening, January 20, the Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus convened in the foyer of the Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center for its annual Installation and Awards Dinner. After drinks and a buffet, our new chapter officers were sworn in and immediately broke into song.

Between chorus numbers and quartet offerings, chapter president, Danny Anderson, and music director, Joe Hudson, presented awards to Dick Zang for Mad Hatter of the Year, Al Papresta for most improved, Jim Hopper for going above and beyond, and Nick Godano for outstanding service.

Bass Dick Walter was named, very deservedly, to the Mad Hatter Hall of Fame. Dick has served the chapter in a number of capacities over his 34 years in the Mad Hatters, as treasurer, package show chairman (he gets us gigs), Board of Directors member, Valentine's Day coordinator, quartet member... the list goes on.



Dick Zang (L) and Dick Walter (R) discussing the contents of the buffet. Picture by John Bradley.

"I'm really surprised," said Dick after being named to the Hall. "I didn't expect this at all and don't know what to say. I'm very proud and appreciative."

For the second year the bartender struggled with the volume of drinks ordered simultaneously by a bunch of thirsty barbershoppers.

"I remember you guys from last year," she said smiling. "You guys sing beautifully, and tip good too."



Mad Hatters perform for friends and family at the annual Installation Dinner. Picture by John Bradley.

Minstrels Mingle at Meadow Ridge

By Dick Zang

Redding, CT - On Saturday afternoon, January 28, the Mad Hatters were back at one of their popular haunts - the senior living quarters at Meadow Ridge in Georgetown (right at the stop sign, not left).

Conditions are never ideal there because there is no auditorium or gathering hall - instead we circle up around one of the nurses' stations. This time, however, we were twice blessed.

First, because there were no attendants present to respond to room alarms, we were interrupted minutes at a time by a 90 decibel klaxon tuned to somewhere between E minor and H flat. We later learned that it may have been the work of a nasty critic in Room 213.

And second, by a resident who had to have been a music director in an earlier life.

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Meadow Ridge

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She could not stand to see the chorus stand idly by as Rare Occasion performed their set. She wanted to encourage full participation by repeatedly shouting "Hum, boys, hum!" Maybe she has a point. Could quartet singing be enhanced by back up singers or hummers? Joe always implores us to sing like cellos and we could be making ourselves useful while we wait for the next song.

Quartets Roam the Countryside on Valentine's Day

Somewhere in Western Connecticut - It was another successful Valentine's Day for the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus as its quartets fanned out over western Connecticut and eastern New York State to deliver Singing Valentines in schools, homes, offices and restaurants on a balmy February day.

According to Valentine's Day coordinator, Dick Walter, the chorus delivered over 50 paid valentines, plus a few freebies. Although at this writing exact totals are not in, it looks like we beat last year's total, which was a significant increase over 2010 and 2009.

"Valentine's Day and the Annual Show are our two biggest fund raisers," explained Dick. "It's important we do well on these events. And, perhaps it's the sign of an improving economy. Maybe the Valentine's Index parallels the Dow."

Quartet Corner



News from our chorus quartets

Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

In one configuration or another, Real Chemistry has been delivering Singing Valentines since the chorus got involved in the program. Bass Dick Walter and lead Bob Bradley, the two remaining charter members of the quartet, could not agree on what year that was.

Due to Bob's recent surgery, our hours on Valentine's Day were curtailed. But we did manage to make about ten "deliveries," with a substantial rest break in the afternoon. As happens every year, some valentines stand out from the others.

At our first stop, Pequenaconck Elementary School in North Salem, NY, I learned, from a hand-drawn poster in the hallway, that the largest snowflake on record was 15 inches in diameter. Being a lover of totally useless facts, I later learned that the flake dropped at Montana's Fort Keogh in 1887.

According to the *New York Times*, a rancher described the snowflakes in that January 28th storm as "larger than milk pans."

Our second stop was at Branchville Elementary School in Ridgefield, CT. The principal, a native of Australia, set up a video camera and even marked an "X" on the floor in his office where we were to stand while serenading a teacher.

To make it even a little odder, we were asked to hide in a nearby closet while the teacher was summoned.

At Scotts Ridge Middle School, also in Ridgefield, when leaving the classroom after making our delivery, we were surrounded by a swarm of students who wanted us to sing to them. We complied with our mid-morning middle school song, "Coney Island Baby." The principal, who had accompanied us to the classroom, enjoyed us so much he hired us to sing to his family that evening.

We also learned that alcohol and love songs can mix very much to the advantage of barbershoppers. At Jim Barbarie's Restaurant in Danbury, a somewhat inebriated woman gave us a substantial wad for a tip after singing to her valentine.

As always, it was a fun day singing and hanging with three good friends. If I could only be a barbershopper one day a year, it would be Valentine's Day.

Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Saturday, February 4, we sang at the Memorial Services held for Carolyn Watson at the Church of Christ. Carolyn had suffered from Alzheimers for the last several years. We first sang to her and her husband Herb about three years ago, delivering a Singing Valentine, and returned each year until the present.

Carolyn loved music and we could see her expression change as we sang to her and her devoted husband. Her favorite song was "Always," which was also inscribed inside her wedding band.

We felt honored to sing "Always" and "I Believe" at the services attended by her husband, family and congregation in tribute to a wonderful lady.

This year Rare Occasion delivered a boatload of Singing Valentines in the Greater Danbury area, starting on Sunday afternoon at 2 pm and finishing up on Tuesday, Valentine's Day, at 8:30 pm.

In addition to stops in Danbury, Bethel, New Milford and Brewster, NY, we also traveled to Newtown, Sandy Hook, Monroe and Shelton. Included were several "pro bono" stops that we traditionally make at the Danbury Hospital Information Desk, the *News-Times* and to Don and Pat Sutherland.

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Quartets

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We also visited the Stadley-Rough, Shelter Rock and Mill Ridge Schools where we were able to serenade audiences considerably younger than our normal groups while delivering Valentines to their teachers. We were also well received at Ability Beyond Disability in Danbury.

Also among our favorite traditional stops were the Danbury Hospital nurses' stations at the Labor and Delivery, Natal Intensive Care and Family Birthing Center Areas.

One of the highlights of the Singing Valentines Program is the opportunity to meet many wonderful, new, interesting people and share with them our love of singing Barbershop love songs.

Our favorite songs for Valentine deliveries included "It's You," "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do," "Only You" and "It Had To Be You" (called our "You Package"). We also sang "Heart Of My Heart," "There Is Nothing Like A Dame" and, to the babies and youngsters, "Don't Be A Baby, Baby" and "Lullaby In Ragtime".

We have become very recognizable in our bright red Rare Occasion sweaters that blend well with the Valentine's Day atmosphere and attract a lot of attention.



Rare Occasion delivering a Singing Valentine

In summary, we delivered a total of 29 paid Valentines. When you factor in the gratuities, they add up to the equivalent of 32.5 paid Valentines that we are turning in to the Chapter.

The Travelling Men – By Danny Anderson

The Travelling Men quartet had lots of fun delivering Singing Valentines this year. It was the first time we had performed with our new lineup. Wynn Wilcox is now singing tenor and Daryl Bornstein is singing baritone. This was the first time that Daryl had participated in Singing Valentines.

He said, "I had a lot more fun than I expected."

Sunday's Valentines began at a Danbury restaurant where we sang for a gentleman who just had knee replacement surgery. Not only did we ease his pain a bit, but we entertained many other diners as well.

Chorus director, Joe Hudson, asked to join us in delivering a Valentine to his wife, Liz, at her place of work.

At one home we were joined by the family dog while we sang. He came and lined up with us, looked up at Daryl waiting for the pitch, then turned and sat down in front of us as we sang. When the song ended he looked back for the next pitch and then resumed his position.

At another home their parrots joined in while we sang. They were in a completely different key (although it may have been the correct one).

On Monday, Dickson DeMarche filled in at bass as Andy Bayer was not able to take the day off. Thank you Dickson for singing with us.

Travelling Men are preparing to sing in competition at the March Divisional contest.

eMails to the Editors

Please eMail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at jbroad1313@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've attended many of your concerts and I've noticed that the chorus members stand in different places each time. Is there some reason for all the changes? And why do some guys always hog the first row. When will it be John Bradley's turn to be in the front row?

Dick from Doodletown.

Dick, thanks for being a loyal fan. There are two reasons we keep changing positions.

The first is that no one can remember where we stood the last time we sang, and our music director keeps forgetting to write down our positions.

The second is that our director moves us around to get the best balance of parts and mixture of voices. As a volunteer organization, it's rare to have all the same people attend every singing event.

I've heard that John Bradley really doesn't like being in the front row. Besides, you have to be able to smile and dance to be in front. He hates both.

Valetine's Day



This boy enjoyed Rare Occasion's performance of "Only You" as much as his mom did. Picture by Terry Dunkle

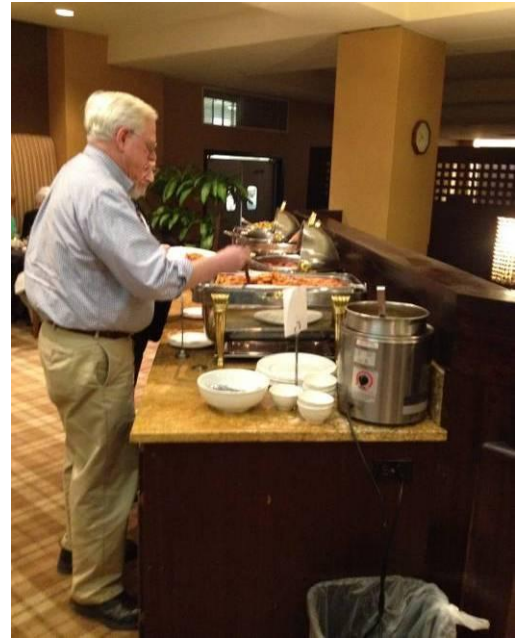


Rare Occasion sings to Mary Dunkle. As usual, Charlie, the Rat Terrier had to get in on the action. Picture by Terry Dunkle



Rare Occasion's last Singing Valentine was delivered in a pizza shop in Shelton. Picture by Terry Dunkle.

Installation Dinner



Barbershoppers must be fed. Art Roberts at the buffet table. Picture by John Bradley



Nick Godano receives his well-deserved award. Picture by John Bradley



Loco Fedora performs. Picture by John Bradley

Three Things

John Ward and Joe Hunter, members of the Big Apple Chorus, quartetmates in Up All Night, and Barbershop Harmony Society judges, journeyed to Danbury to work with the chorus in improving its contest songs, "It's Only a Paper Moon" and "On the Sunny Side of the Street."

After each coaching session, director Joe Hudson asks the chorus members to submit at least three things they learned during the session, to share with other chorus members, especially those who could not attend the coaching session.

Following is a collection of "three things."

Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox

- Leads need to be a bit more legato.
- But, that legato shouldn't lose the backbeat.
- Avoid rushing the syncopation in the section with the lead solo.

Dick Zang

- In "Paper Moon":
- Don't push the rhythm.
- Basses: don't scoop the tag on "I've."
- Keep the volume down until you get to the key change.

Daryl Bornstein

- Don't force the swing or push the tempo. It is a relaxed, "lazy" blues swing.
- Bari's should balance and tune with the tenors on 5ths and 3rds, and add to the basses when they are singing the "melody".
- Baritones cannot sing **TOO LOUDLY** on the final chord of the tag, so long as they maintain quality singing, and keep something in reserve.
- **BARITONES CANNOT SING LOUDLY ENOUGH** on the final chord of the tag!
- I love the "raise the suck level" notion. A wonderful alternative approach.

Jim Hopper

- Don't rush. Let the rhythm carry you along, not vice-versa.
- Don't let the great rhythm prevent you from singing smoothly
- Practice so much that your suck level is not that far away from your wow level.
- Always be able to hear the melody
- You can't sing loud enough to improve the guy next to you, so don't even try.
- Don't make a "pointed" sound with your voice on this song. Sing more openly and with more breath in your voice.
- Basses should sing like leads. No growling.
- Tenors sing a quarter tone sharper on the key change note ("cade" in arcade) since it's the third in the chord and sing it louder than you would normally sing a third.

- Tenors sing the tag with full voice since you're under the leads.

Lyle LaPlante

- Basses sing like we have the melody
- Save something for the end
- Listen to the harmony with the other parts

Nick Godano

- Exploit the diphthongs; use them to build excitement.
- Start off at a low volume and leave yourself somewhere to go.
- Don't just practice until you get it right; practice until you **CAN'T** get it wrong (raise the suck level).

Al Paparesta

- Rhythm. Don't speed up.
- **RELAX!** Don't force it.
- Round out the sound. Words like "you're" should be sound more like "yoo."

Joseph P. Hudson

- While rhythm is the underlying theme of "Paper Moon" it still needs to be sung smoothly.
- Tenors a little louder on key change chord in "Paper Moon."
- Leads -- don't speed the tempo of "Paper Moon."



John Ward – does he like what he hears?
Picture by Terry Dunkle

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month



At first I thought the yoga instructor was lying, then I realized she was just stretching the truth.



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Danny “Danny Anderson” Anderson at 6:07:25 PM on February 7, 2012 at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: It turns out that all these years we’ve been approving the Secretary’s report, but now we have to receive it. So we agreed to receive it even though we didn’t read it. Even me, and I wrote it. Accepted on a motion by Dick Walter, seconded by Dickson DeMarche. [*Editor’s Note: I edited it and I didn’t read it.*]

TREASURER’S REPORT: We have finally paid off all of the bills for our show. Our receipts for the month were less than our expenses, but for the year we did keep up with our financial obligations. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Dick Walter.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We have a new member, Daryl Bornstein, who is a welcome addition as a baritone and also brings us a fund of knowledge about musical practice and technique.

We are now beginning Operation Harold Hill a local program that is backed by the Society with a great number of resources. The purpose of the program is to increase membership, which is – not so incidentally – the major goal of our five year plan. There are a number of suggestions on the BHS website, some of which we will appropriate, such as the singing lesson program and developing a relationship with the local radio station.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Our advertising campaign for Valentine’s Day is in full swing with ads on local internet “Patches,” PSAs on radio and TV stations, messages on Facebook, street signs, and web and print ads in the *News-Times*. We will also contact nursing homes.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: We received Jim Hopper’s report. The report was accepted on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Dickson DeMarche. We have ordered songs from David Harrington’s website.

OLD BUSINESS: We will have four quartets singing for the three days of the Singing Valentines campaign.

The Annual show has reserved Western Connecticut’s White Hall as its venue. A motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock, to have the show at Western Connecticut State University was approved. The date is May 12th. We will have ticket access through the internet. The guest group is still to be determined, but we are thinking of promoting the Big Apple Chorus as New York’s leading a cappella group “as

seen on national TV.” Joe will talk to Big Apple to begin non-binding negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS: Due to the lateness of the hour and the importance of the topics remaining, other new business was tabled.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Zlamany

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, J. Lin, D. DeMarche, T. Dunkle, R. Golenbock, J. Hopper, J. Hudson, L. LaPlante, A. Roberts, R. Walter, X. Zymyrgy.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15:42 pm to set up the risers. Next meeting is March 6, 2012.

January Music Committee Meeting Minutes



Submitted by Jim Hopper

Members present: R. Golenbock, J. Hopper, J. Hudson, L. LaPlante, D. Zang, K. Moon.

Members absent: W. Gadkar-Wilcox

Others present: N. Godano, A. Paparesta, C. Zlamany

Eleven songs were selected for the chorus to sing on the annual show scheduled for May:

- *Bare Necessities*
- *If I Loved You*
- *Shenandoah*
- *Cabaret*
- *Over the Rainbow*
- *Somewhere Out There*
- *Can You Feel the Love*
- *Paper Moon Sunny*
- *Side Of the Street*
- *From the First Hello*
- *River Of No Return*

Chapter Quartets will each sing one song of their choice during the first half. Proposed songs were “They Say It’s Wonderful” by Travelling Men, “Lullaby In Ragtime” by Rare Occasion, “Till There Was You” by Loco Fedora, and “In-a-Gadda-da-Vida” by Real Chemistry.

The chapter has an option to purchase arrangements by David Harrington at a reduced price until August of this year. The Board will be asked for authorization to purchase 40 copies each of “Luck Be a Lady,” “Almost Like Being In Love,” “If I Had My Way,” and “Hello, My Baby.”

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Music Committee

Continued from the previous page

In addition, single copies of about 15 arrangements identified by the music committee may be requested for review.

The order of new songs to be introduced to the chorus after the annual show was set as:

- *My Honey's Lovin' Arms*
- *When You and I Were Young, Maggie*
- *They Say It's Wonderful*
- *How Deep Is the Ocean.*

The discussion of how and when to introduce any new Harrington arrangements and non-barbershop songs such as Billy Joel's, "And So It Goes," was tabled.

Joe Hudson declared that licensing the "Pirate Medley" as sung by Reveille is too expensive to consider.

By e-mail, Wynn suggested that the chorus spend more time on the risers during rehearsals.

There was general agreement and a further suggestion that rehearsals could include an opportunity for chorus members to substitute for a member of a chapter quartet to gain some quartet experience.



In the Lyle's Den

By Lyle LaPlante

A few thoughts on programming as the year progresses.

First of all, we want to incorporate as many things as possible into our 2.5 weekly rehearsal hours without creating a rush-rush feeling. Members can help by arriving as promptly as their jobs allow, limiting non-chorus activities and getting back promptly after break time.

Second, members are encouraged to work as much as possible at home on notes and words so that rehearsal time is not consumed in learning these aspects of our new music.

Finally, we will try to incorporate some of the "fun" things into our regular singing practice. This will include warming up with tags (members should try to do some warming up on the way in their car) and quarteting or octeting on repertoire songs. This will help each of us to see how well we really know our music when there is no one else to lean on.

We will continue to seek ways to make our meetings something for everyone to look forward to as we work to improve our chorus sound. As always, suggestions are welcome.

The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson



It appears the chapter has delivered a record number of Singing Valentines this year. As I understand, we had three quartets singing this year. Travelling Men sang for three days as did Rare Occasion, who delivered the lion's share of the valentines. Bob Bradley returned from his recent surgery to sing on Tuesday with Real Chemistry. Welcome back, Bob.

The success of our Singing Valentines is a result of the efforts of many members of the chapter. Many members placed yard signs, which were seen by several of the Valentine recipients. Wynn, Al, Terry and the marketing team were effective in placement of ads in the newspaper, radio, public web sites and mail. All these were effective means to get the word out. Thank you, gentlemen, for your good work.

March 17th is the scheduled date for the Yankee Divisional competition. We want as many of our members to participate in the competition as possible. We will be defending our position as the Small Chorus champions. We had a great coaching session with Joe Hunter last week. He will join us once more before we go to competition. Plan on making each rehearsal so we can build upon each week's work.

On Friday night, March 16, two of our chapter quartets will be competing. If you can come up Friday night, you can root for Travelling Men and Loco Fedora.

We have worked hard at improving our singing and the presentation of our songs. I have received many positive comments from people after our recent sing-outs. One of our goals this year is to improve our sing-out performances.

It is good to see that most of the chapter members are using the Groupinzer program. We want to use this program to its fullest potential. In addition to the site having our songs, it will be used to publish information on sing-outs and to record our attendance at the sing-outs. In the months to come, additional uses for the site will be introduced, so stay tuned.

Our chapter will be participating in the Operation Harold Hill program. The Society website has information about the program which I encourage you to review. Andy will be seeking help with guest nights and other membership recruitment activities. Please be ready to provide assistance when requested. Remember our goal of 99 men on the risers in five years.

We have moved our annual show to May 12th. Our venue will be White Hall on the Western Connecticut campus. This will bring our show back to the Danbury area after a period in Brookfield. We will soon be going forward with an advertising campaign for the show and with the sale of advertisements.

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Podium

Continued from the previous page

We will use the ads sold for the May program a second time during our Holiday show the first Saturday in December.

Once again I encourage all chorus members to spend time during the week working on your music. We have several new songs to learn and perfect, but we need to continue practicing the current songs in the repertory.



A member of the kitchen staff thoughtfully accompanies Traveling Men in its performance of "What'll I Do?" at the January 20 installation dinner in the Danbury Plaza Hotel, where guests also enjoyed overdone salmon, congealed ziti, frozen store-bought cheesecake, the sounds of children running up and down marble floors, and the services of a bartender who had never before made a \$13 martini and short-changed the man who bought one. Submitted by Terry Dunkle.

Pitch Pipe Finesse

Posted by DekeSharon, <http://www.casa.org/node/6492>

It occurred to me onstage last weekend that nothing has been written about the best way to give pitches on stage, or if there has been, I haven't read it, and the suggestions likely don't take into consideration the latest (electronic pitchpipe) technology. Without further ado, here are my thoughts on the best way to give pitches on stage:

If you're the only person who needs the pitch, cradle the pitch pipe in your hand, bring it up to your ear, play the pitch, then delicately wheel the volume dial up with your thumb until you hear it, returning the volume to zero when you're done.

If one of your singers (say, the bass) needs the pitch, just point the pitch at/toward his head, and make sure he nods when he gets the pitch. You might think this is obvious to the audience, but if one of your members is delivering an intro, they'll never see it.

If your entire group needs the pitch, your best bet is either to play it during the applause from the previous song (if it's a direct segue) or during a moment of laughter or other audience noise during the introduction. Again, volume dialing is key;

play the pitch (without looking, of course) and then dial up the sound as loud as needed for as long as needed. Keep your finger on that dial, because if the applause or laughter dies off you want to be able to keep the sound just under a level they'll hear.

Of course it's an imprecise game, but you'll find you'll get quite good at it rather quickly. If the audience notices you every once in a while, that's OK, as the rest of the time you have a far more seamless set

If you find the audience is too loud and you don't want the energy to die down and want to start your next song on top of the applause, simply play the pitch to yourself then sing it off mic (turning your head both ways if you're in the middle of the group).

You can store it in a front pocket (if they're loose), but I prefer my back right pocket - easier to slip it in and out unnoticed (I'm right handed).

Always have a spare, and I recommend giving 'em to other members provided they always bring them to shows (in case you forget yours). When using electronic pitch pipes, switch it off when you're not using it, although, on mine, the pitch automatically stops after ten or so seconds (it's more a matter of saving yourself the embarrassment of an F# blaring from your butt at the afterparty).

CASA: the Contemporary A Cappella Society. CASA was formed to create a community between singers and fans of contemporary a cappella

Repertoire Notes



The original "Heart of My Heart," also known as "The Story of the Rose," was written by Andrew Mack (1863–1931) in 1899. Mack was a popular Irish actor, singer and comedian who reportedly first sang this song in an 1899 show at The Academy of Music in New York. The show was *The Last of the Rohans*, written and produced by Mack.

A version of the song was recorded by The Four Aces on October 14, 1953, and was issued by Decca Records. It reached #7 on Billboard. Another version recorded by Don Cornell, Alan Dale, and Johnny Desmond also charted in 1953, reaching #10 on Billboard. In the United Kingdom, a version by Max Bygraves charted at #7. Other known versions of the song include recordings by Frankie Laine and Trini Lopez (who included it on his album *Os Grandes Sucessos de Trini Lopez*).

According to the book *Grace and Power: The Private World of the Kennedy White House* by Sally Bedell Smith, this song was a particular favorite of U.S. President John F. Kennedy; the book mentions that the president often asked his younger brother, Teddy, to sing it at family gatherings.



Society and District Notes



Barbershop BBQ

The date has been set for the 8th Annual Baseball, Barbershop BBQ - July 28th, 2012, 3pm for the BBQ, 6pm for the singing of the National Anthem. Game, time 6:05pm. We will also have a Quartet sing "God Bless America" at the 7th Inning stretch.

McCoy Stadium, One Columbus Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860

The Pawtucket Red Sox will be playing the Scranton/Wilkes Barre Yankees, a farm team of the NY Yankees.

If the game is rained out on the 28th, then we will hold the BBQ on Sunday the 29th, 11am for the BBQ, 1pm for singing the National Anthem, and game time 1:05pm.

Ticket prices will remain the same for 2012. \$15 Adults/\$10 children 12 and younger. BBQ is limited to 200 people. Invite family, friends and potential singers!

Make your check out to: Ocean State Chorus and mail to: Steve Isherwood, 179 Ontario Street, Providence, RI 02907

NED Directors Master Class

Hope your New Year has been fruitful and healthy thus far. If you made a New Year's Resolution to grow as a director, musical leader or simply to better contribute to your chorus and chapter's success over the coming year, I hope you'll join us on Saturday, March 3rd for the NED Directors Master Class with the great Steve Armstrong, director of the Toronto Northern Lights chorus.

This is going to be a fantastic day of learning, where the attendees will become the chorus, and Steve Armstrong will lead us through a day-long session of singing, rehearsal techniques, leadership, and building rapport between you and your chorus / section. This is an ideal workshop for directors (frontline, associates, assistant and wanna-be's) and section leaders...or anyone simply looking to improve as a musician.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 3rd from 9:00 - 5:00 (arrive starting at 8:30) at the Courtyard Marriott in Billerica, MA.

Steve will be focusing on the kinds of rehearsal techniques and approaches that have made Toronto Northern Lights consistently one of the best singing, most musical and most innovative choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Also one that has achieved tremendous results without having 75 - 150 guys on the risers. I'm sure you'll find approaches, skills and techniques that Steve imparts during the day that you'll be able to use in your ensemble immediately.

The session is open to men and women, and, while focused on singing barbershop harmony, is not limited to just members of BHS, Harmony Inc and Sweet Adelines. For more information and to register, please go to www.nedistrict.org and click on the "more information & register here" link on the home page.

Ads for Spring Programs

Just a timely reminder... tick-tock-tick-tock...

Submit your ad for the first of two state-side NED Spring Convention programs before it's too late.

It's a refreshing opportunity for quartets, chapters, supporters of our singing men (and women!), and perhaps your services or products!

Reach the many men, women and youth of our District - and local audience - singers, competitors, leaders, supporters, lovers of barbershop - with a Display Ad or Line Listing ad in the Spring District & Divisional Convention & Contest Programs!

Advertise your annual show, other performances, meetings, parties, classes, training, workshop, CD releases Spread the word that your quartet is available and wants to perform on shows!

Businesses: Advertise your product or service, in the Schenectady/Albany, NY and NED region and beyond!

Display chapter achievements - recognize BOTY recipients - honor those who have served and sung. - Support your contest singers with a "Sing Well - Good Luck" ad!

Now is the time to support barbershop harmony, show the love - and reach - the ones you love!

For more info, prices, layout and guidelines for Contest #1 - the "Western Regional's" and Int'l Prelims - is available NOW on the NED web site:

http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=69

Steve Salamin
Publisher/Editor - NED Contest Programs

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A barbershop baritone and a lead were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing..

"We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said the baritone, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her pocket, took a measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches," and walked away.

The baritone shook his head and laughed. "Ain't that just like a woman! We ask for the height, and she gives us the length!"



A barbershop baritone with a nagging secret couldn't keep it any longer. In the confessional he admitted that for years he had been stealing building supplies from the lumberyard where he worked.

"What did you take?" his priest asked.

"Enough to build my own house and enough for my son's house, and houses for our two daughters and our cottage at the lake."

"This is very serious," the priest said. "I shall have to think of a far-reaching penance. Have you ever done a retreat?"

"No, Father, I haven't," the baritone replied. "But if you can get the plans, I can get the lumber."



A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named Amal. The other goes to a family in Spain. They name him Juan. Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband, a barbershop baritone, that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal.

He responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire



Performance

Bare Necessities
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
Can You Feel the Love Tonight
Give My Regards To Broadway
Heart
If I Loved You
Over The Rainbow
Please, Mr. Columbus
Shenandoah
Ten Feet Off The Ground
Thanks For The Memory
There Is Nothing Like A Dame

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

It's Only A Paper Moon
On The Sunny Side Of The Street
I've Been Roped And Thrown By
Jesus In The Holy Ghost Corral

In Progress/Upcoming

From The First Hello
It's Only A Paper Moon
Oh, I've Got Hair Oil On My Ears And
My Glasses Are Slipping Down, But
Baby I Can See Through You
River Of No Return
Somewhere Out There
How Deep Is The Ocean
My Honey's Lovin' Arms
They Say It's Wonderful
When You And I Were Young,
Maggie

The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

PO Box 5149
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President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Jim Hopper
Assistant Director:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Wynn Wilcox
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Lyle LaPlante
Member at Large:	Terry Dunkle
Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Dick Walter
Uniform Chairman:	Andy Bayer
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 whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

February Milestones

Birthdays:

- 5 - Linda Anderson
- 7 - Jane Huester
- 8 - Vikki Bradley

Wedding Anniversaries:

- 9 - Chuck and Judith Kreiger



Our former director Joel Knecht and his wife Kimya have welcomed the newest addition to their family. Silas Raymond Knecht was born on February 1, 2012.

Congratulations, Joel, from the friends and members of the Mad Hatter Chorus.

Mark Your Calendars

February 21, Chapter Sing-out: Bethel Health Care (The Cascades), 13 Park Lawn Drive, Bethel, CT. Warmup 7:00, sing 7:30.

March 16-17, International Prelims,
Yankee/Mountain Western Regional Convention
Schenectady, NY
Host: Scenectady (K-044)
Details to be announced

May 12. Danbury Mad Hatter Annual. Show. White Hall on the Western Connecticut University campus. Details to be announced.

Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention



Portland Contest Venue

Contests will be held in the beautiful Rose Garden Arena

Headquarters Hotel

The headquarters hotel will be the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Registration Includes admission to all contest sessions.

Individual Event Tickets:

Day Passes will go on-sale June 1st, 2012 (pending availability). Pricing TBD.

Register by phone: 800-595-4849

