



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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www.madhatterchorus.org

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Mad Hatters Play the Palace

By John Bradley

Danbury, CT – The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus mixed barbershop music and vaudeville as they helped First Night Danbury bring in the new year at the partially renovated Palace Theater on Main Street.

The Real Chemistry quartet appeared on the Palace's stage at about 6:15, following fellow "vaudevillians" Sean Grissom (Cajun cellist) and comedienne Natalie Ferrier (Mae West) in bringing back the variety of vaudeville.

To keep with the evening's moon theme, "Once in a Blue Moon" (in celebration of the rare blue moon), the quartet performed its blue moon song, "Coney Island Baby," followed by "Get Out and Get Under The Moon" and "My Wife is on a Diet," which has nothing to do with the moon – but is just funny, and got Mae West laughing.

At the end of the quartet's set, the Mad Hatter Chorus strolled down the aisles while singing "I Feel a Song Coming On," followed by "Cabaret." The chorus then formed in the theater's lobby for a 45-minute set, featuring the group's standard repertoire and performances by Rare Occasion and The HatterTones. The audience, although cramped in the narrow lobby, was large and enthusiastic.

With more than a dozen indoor and street locations throughout CityCenter, First Night Danbury 2009-10 was, according to organizers, expected to surpass all previous years' festivities because of the addition of a 5K run and over 25 solo artists and groups, and, of course, the fireworks finale to ring in the New Year..

To this writer, a former Keeler Street resident, the highlight of the evening was performing in the partially refurbished Palace Theater, whose back wall I stared at from my kitchen for a number of years..

The 2,000 seat Palace opened on Sept. 6, 1928, with a domed ceiling, Italian statuary, and a chandelier-lit lobby.

It had a full pipe organ, two grand pianos and a nine-piece pit orchestra. It booked vaudeville acts and motion pictures, and hosted shows by Louis Armstrong and Jimmy Durante, among others.



The Palace's marquis, December 31, 2009.



The Mad Hatter warming up in the mezzanine lobby

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Do You Recognize This?

Below is a venue at which the Mad Hatters sang a few years ago. Do you recognize it? If you are the first to respond by email with the correct answer, you win!



Congratulations to Chuck Kreiger, who won last month's contest by correctly identifying the Latchis Hotel and Theater in Brattleboro, VT.

Dear Editors,

The photograph of the building on Page Two of the *Hatter Chatter's* December issue reminds me of the old theatre where we sang in downtown Brattleboro, Vermont. If I am right, I remember liking the venue and the old town. I think I also remember liking the way we sang, although I was a new barbershopper then and somewhat inexperienced in the barbershop way of singing.

In Harmony,
Chuck

Terry from Teaneck was a little off this month: "It's Carnegie Hall, of course."

Danbury Chorus Receives Grant

The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus received a \$500 grant from New York Life Insurance Company's Volunteers for Life program. Mad Hatter baritone and New York Life employee John Bradley applied for the grant.

The purpose of the company's program is to support community-based nonprofit organizations with which New York Life employees are actively involved. John, an AVP of Training, has been a New York Life employee for almost 10 years, and also teaches computer classes through Volunteers for Life at the Tarrytown, NY, Salvation Army headquarters.

Web Site Back Up

After several weeks of being "dark," the Mad Hatter web site is back up and better than ever.

To access the site, point your web browser to:

<http://www.madhatterchorus.org/>

Mad Hatters Sing With Santa

Ansonia, CT – Eleven Mad Hatters joined Joe Hudson and Santa Clause in entertaining the students of John G. Prendergast Elementary School in Ansonia, CT, on Wednesday morning, December 23rd.

Performing two shows for grades one through six, Joe led the chorus and the kids in singing Christmas favorites, as well as songs from the chorus's regular repertoire, such as "You Make Me Feel So Young," "Sh-Boom," "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do," and "Please, Mr Columbus."

But the big star of the show was Santa, played by chorus Raconteur, Bob Bradley. Santa led the kids in enthusiastic (and loud) renditions of "Jingle Bells," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Santa even danced with some of the young students (and female teachers).

Standing in Joe Hudson's music classroom before the performances, baritone John Bradley mentioned, "These seats are really small."

After the performances, principal Lawrence DiPalma thanked the chorus, fed them pizza and showed-off the train set chugging along in his office.

Joe is in his first year teaching music at Prendergast. All the Mad Hatters in attendance hoped this visit would not be the last. They want to be invited back for the pizza and to learn all the "Rudolf" patter. The kids added "like Monopoly" after "...reindeer games" and "like George Washington" after "you'll go down in history." If the kids can learn it, so can the Mad Hatters.



Students greeting Santa Claus at John G. Prendergast Elementary School in Ansonia, CT



Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Saturday, December 5, Rare Occasion kicked off our holiday season, supplying the music for the Second Annual Holiday Wine Tasting Festival held by the New Milford Historical Society. It also marked our first public appearance with Steve Holtz, our new bass. We had a great time singing, tasting wine, eating hors d'oeuvres, singing, tasting more wine and meeting very interesting people.

We met an elderly gentleman and trustee of the Historical Society named Carl Barlow, who claimed to be related to Joel Barlow (the namesake of the high school from which our baritone, teacher Jim Hopper, recently retired).

We were recruited to sing with the Danbury Community Choir (I gave the lady a Mad Hatters' business card and asked her to send our way any of their members who might like to sing barbershop).

Steve had a great time during his initial outing. Robert (Golenbock) won one of the door prizes and bought a case of wine. It was great to be invited back to sing for such a receptive audience for a very worthwhile cause. We sang a mix of our repertoire and Christmas songs in the spirit of the holiday season.

On Wednesday, December 9, we sang at the Annual Holiday Party for the staff and employees of Danbury Hospital. This event is organized by the Hospital VP of Human Resources, Phyllis Zappala, and her staff and includes a festive free lunch for all hospital staff members. We were amazed when Phyllis said there were approximately 1700 people working at Danbury Hospital.



Rare Occasion performing at Danbury Hospital

As we stood in various spots around the cafeteria, we estimated that almost 1000 people (the day shift) had passed within earshot of our singing, which lasted from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. We sang a mix of our repertoire and several seasonal tunes and received many compliments for our music.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and included a great lunch (filet mignon and five- layer chocolate cake). Phyllis was a former employee of Bill Manion, at his company, Nuclear Energy Services, and I informed her that he had relocated to Florida.

Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

On Saturday evening, December 5th, the Real Chemistry barbershop quartet braved the cold and sloppy wet snow to take part in the 14th anniversary Holiday on the Lake celebration in the Hamlet of Carmel NY.

The weather outside, according to tenor Augie D'Aurelli, was mostly frightful, but over 1,000 people braved the elements to line Carmel's main street for the parade of 40 floats decorated for the holiday season by many Carmel area community groups.

Real Chemistry's evening began at about 5:00 PM at the hamlet's Cornerstone Park, where we sang Christmas carols while people strolled by, sipping hot chowder and nibbling other goodies provided by local merchants.

The parade kicked off at 7:00 PM, winding down from Guidepost headquarters, along the chilly shores of Lake Gleneida, and finishing at the historic Putnam County Courthouse.

The quartet then quickly made its way to the reviewing stand where, at 8:00 PM, we performed for TV and the crowd, singing our wet winter weather song, "Coney Island Baby" and other pieces from our regular repertoire.

Just before bass Dick Walter's hands froze off, local dignitaries lit the almost 100 Christmas trees lining the lake, allowing the quartet members to get into lead Bob Bradley's car and turn on the heat.



View from Real Chemistry's float during the Carmel, NY Holiday on the Lake parade.



Real Chemistry performing on the reviewing stand

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Meet Our New President

Following is an interview the *Hatter Chatter* recently conducted with the chorus's incoming president, Danny Anderson.

HC: For those in the extended Mad Hatter family who don't know you well, can you give us a little information about your job, family and hobbies outside of barbershopping?

Danny: I work with Efficient Lighting and Maintenance, Inc. located in Brookfield, CT. Our primary emphasis of work is in the Energy Conservation field. We are approved by the state utilities to represent the conservation measures of the utilities.

We have sales people who solicit the projects and auditors who evaluate current conditions such as number and type of lighting fixtures, type and size of motors, HVAC conditions and size, plus many other energy consumption sources.

I then develop the project to determine the customer's current energy usage for each consumption source, along with a recommendation for either a retrofit, replacement or the installation of a control measure. When completed, the usual savings for the customer is between 30 to 40%. I then present this project to the respective utility, obtain approval and incentive dollars for the project. A finance package is obtained, usually a pure 0% interest rate. After all this is obtained we develop a sales package for presentation to the customer. If signed, we then perform the prescribed work.

My wife Linda and I have been married for 37 years. I moved in across the street from her in 1969 when my family moved from Florida to Greenville, SC. After our marriage, we lived in Charleston, SC, then moved to Myrtle Beach where both our children were born.

I accepted work with Hallmark Cards in 1977, moving us to Columbia, SC. After a promotion, we moved again to Cincinnati, OH, where I managed Hallmark's sales efforts with the Kroger Supermarket chain. Promotion and new work efforts took us to Nashville and Knoxville, TN. A move to another company took us to the Philly area, then another here to Danbury, where I managed the New York City district and operations for the Northeast.

Gibson was purchased and our new parent did not need two people in the same position. Thus, I became unemployed, which led me to the energy conservation work I do today.

As noted earlier, Linda and I have two children, Catherine and William, each married, and between them we have six wonderful grandchildren.

My hobbies outside of barbershopping include reading and bass fishing. I also own golf clubs.

HC: How did you come to the Mad Hatters? How long have you been a member? What other positions have you held with the chorus?

Danny: Jim Hopper invited me to a guest night at the Elks Hall. I had known that Jim was singing barbershop, but nothing else. I showed up there with Lyle LaPlante, Des Terry, and Nick Godano. I was hooked from the start.

Bob Bradley sang alongside me and after the meeting said I might make a good barbershopper. I thought that I would sing bass, but Jim and Fred (Baran) both said no, sing lead.

Bill Manion persuaded me to take on the position as VP of membership. I have held that position for the last year.

HC: Being an officer of a non-profit organization can be a thankless undertaking. Why do you want to be president?

Danny: I did not have much choice. Bob told me that I was his replacement.

I have previously served as president of a different non-profit organization in the Danbury area. I see this as a service position, where I will enlist the aid of others to help our chapter grow in numbers, strengthen our financial position and expand the community awareness of barbershop music.

Bob has positioned this chapter for growth, and I just hope to keep it going in a positive direction.

HC: What do you see as the strengths of the chorus? Where are areas for improvement?

Danny: Our greatest strength is our director, Joe Hudson. He has such energy and enthusiasm, which I would like to bottle and give to each member. Another strength is our board members who have been strong, steady leaders in the past and will continue to lead us into the future. And, our strength is each member. We have been blessed with members of long standing and now with several new members. Our sections are beginning to sound like one unified voice.

HC: What do you feel will be your greatest challenge?

Danny: Writing a monthly article for the *Hatter Chatter* will be a challenge. Writing has never been a strong suit for me. I can stand and talk off the cuff all day, but writing is difficult. To determine what I wish to write about is always a challenge. Maybe the editors can assign me a topic, then I can fill in the blanks.

HC: Loss and aging of members is a challenge facing our barbershop society. What are some ways you feel we can attract new, and perhaps, younger members?

Danny: I would like each member to commit to bringing at least one new person to the meetings this coming year.

Continued on the next page

Danny Anderson

Continued from the previous page

That would be over 30 potential new members, but we know they will not all become members. But if we get 20%, then we will have added six new members. Somehow we need to get exposure at Western Connecticut State University and tap into the talent that is there. We could invite our sons and grandsons to sing with us.

HC: We can't look into the future, but we all have goals when starting new things. What are some of your goals?

Danny: Continued steady numerical growth of the chapter. Continued growth in our singing ability. Greater community awareness of our music. More opportunities to sing within the community. That the Danbury chapter be the chapter that the northeast district looks to for leadership, and the chapter other chapters aspire to be like.

Quartets

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HatterTones – by Dick Zang

You may have heard the HatterTones singing an unfamiliar arrangement of “White Christmas” over the past few weeks. We learned it from a copy of the arrangement by Harry Duvall that I used to sing when I was a member of the Manhattan Chapter back in the late 1960’s. Back then it was the Skyline Chorus, not the Big Apple and we met at the prestigious Liederkrantz Club on East 87th St and Fifth Avenue.

We sang many of Harry’s arrangements – all hand-written. Some were simple and others quite difficult. One medley of New York songs ran about 13 minutes with umpteen key changes. We always got a kick out of singing one of his commercial jingles. Do you remember “Let Hertz put you in the driver’s seat today”?

Harry was a vocalist by trade and our director. He loved the close harmonies of barbershop and demanded the very best from us just as was required when he recorded as a studio singer with Frank Sinatra or Tony Bennett. He also sang baritone with The Four Lads from 1980 to 1995.

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

I bought some batteries, but they weren't included.

Singing Valentines



Valentine’s Day is not far off, so it’s not too early to start planning for this important event.

The Mad Hatters have two major fund raising events each year: our annual show and Singing Valentines. For the new chorus members, the Mad Hatters devote Valentine’s Day to driving all over western Connecticut and eastern New York State, delivering two songs, a rose and a card to someone’s valentine.

It’s a fun event and an important day for the Mad Hatter treasury. And it’s an event in which all chorus members should get involved. How can you participate?

Join/form a quartet. All you need is four guys and two love songs. The more quartets we have, the more singing valentines we can perform.

Sell a Singing Valentine. It’s an easier sell than annual show tickets. What guy wouldn’t pay \$50 to have his loved one serenaded on Valentine’s Day? He doesn’t have to go to the store to buy anything, he doesn’t have to be there and most importantly, he doesn’t have to sing. Some guys even like receiving Singing Valentines, unless they work in a Harley Davidson dealership.

Buy a Singing Valentine. Your loved one would love to see you show up in a tuxedo to serenade her, as would your mom, grandma, aunt, great-aunt, sister, mother-in-law, business associates, probation officer...



Mad Hatters rehearsing new choreography to “Hey, Look Me Over.”



Stories About Songs

By Fred Baran

A Holly Jolly Christmas - Words and Music by Johnny Marks

No one has written more Christmas musical goodies than Johnny Marks. Though well known in the popular song world, he found his true forte in writing Christmas songs, specifically "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." After he wrote "Rudolph" in 1949, Marks set up his own company-fittingly called St. Nicholas Music, Inc. to publish the songs himself. The name of the company was a happy omen - a gift he gave himself.

"Rudolph was successful beyond Marks' wildest dreams, and he followed it with such staples as "The Night Before Christmas Song," "When Santa Claus Gets Your Letter," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas." The last song was premiered by Burl Ives in 1964 on the CBS children's Christmas TV special, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

Ives' recording of "A Holly Jolly Christmas" sold more than two million copies.

The Night Before Christmas Song - Words by Clement Clarke Moore, adapted by Johnny Marks, Music by Johnny Marks

Clement Clarke Moore was one of 19th century America's most distinguished scholars in the fields of Oriental and Greek literature. He achieved fame far beyond what might have been expected for even so eminent a scholar and that fame has proved enduring. It rests not on his research, however, but on the charm of a simple poem that he wrote at the age of 42 to entrance his six children on Christmas Eve. He called it, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," and it started with the magic sentence, "Twas the night before Christmas," the title by which his poem is now commonly known.

Johnny Marks, who has written so many of our popular Christmas tunes, adapted Moore's poem into a song.

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus - Words and Music by Tommie Connor

For many years now, fathers have been dressing up in white beards and red suits around Christmastime in order to make their children think that the real Santa Claus has come down the family chimney. In the olden days, however, Santa Claus took pains not to buss his wife in the presence of the youngsters. It was Tommie Connor who wrote this arch little song in 1952 and was lucky enough to have 12 year-old Jimmy Boyd record it in a version that sold nearly two million copies the first year.

Meet John Cheeseman

By Danny Anderson and John Cheeseman

If you haven't had a chance to speak with one of our newer members, John Cheeseman, here's a little information to help you get to know him.

John joined the Mad Hatter Chorus several months ago "to learn something about singing." As a rookie, he states that "the experience has provided nice camaraderie and a real challenge." He describes the "solo" tag and quartet moments as "still mighty intimidating".

For John, it all began back in 1939 in the cornfields of Illinois where he attended Midwestern public schools through his sophomore year and then came East in the mid '50's to an all-male boarding school, Wooster in Danbury, Connecticut, from which he graduated in 1957.

Thereafter unfolded a saga which early on included "considerable adolescent angst," a degree from Princeton University, a Chicago job with International Harvester, graduate work in San Francisco, a year in Mexico, stints in D.C. and Chicago as a cub journalist (last assignment: Chicago's Democratic National Convention in August, 1968, when "the whole world was watching"), and teaching, coaching football, running dormitories, and "doing admin stuff" at Lake Forest Academy, an independent boarding school in northern Illinois. In 1973 he returned to his alma mater, Wooster, where he taught, ran college guidance, oversaw academics, and coached girls' varsity softball.

In 1995 John was appointed Wooster's seventh headmaster, serving until his retirement as Headmaster Emeritus in 2003.

Along the way John married Vivien ("a lovely, stubborn Connecticut Yankee"), gathered a graduate degree in counseling from Western Connecticut State University, hosted three kids ("now far more than fully grown") and, to date, dodges three grandkids.

John served for years on the Board of the Regional Hospice of Western Connecticut. He now enjoys the "newfound joy and freedom of discretionary time with my bride", pursues a partially green thumb, fishes Lake Candlewood, and periodically tries to counsel the young and the elderly ("and nobody in between").

Classic Tags?

Need a copy of the Classic Tags book? Here is a link – click and print.

http://illinistatesmen.org/files/classic_tags.pdf

Print it out and enjoy!



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

Dear John Bradley & Dick Zang,

Thank you so much for this prize-winning, delightful to read *Hatter Chatter*. I look forward to every issue and have read them from beginning to end. The only thing that irks me are the baritone jokes, of course!

In Harmony,
Chuck Kreiger, sometimes a baritone

Thanks for the nice note, Chuck. I'm glad someone in the chorus reads the Hatter Chatter. I sometimes wonder if anyone does.

I think you're right about the baritone jokes. It's time to pick on someone else. We baritones have to stick together.

Jokes? You mean those were jokes?
Nick Godano (Mad Hatter Bass)

Chuck, I think we've found our target.

I've seen a couple of barbershop shows and it seems pretty old fashioned. I was wondering, do you guys Twitter?
Bruce from Bridgeport

Bruce, we might be getting old, but for the most part, our fingers still work.

For those of you who may not know, Twitter is a free Internet service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question:

For example, I found one Twitter entry for "why should you join a barbershop singing group," which was followed by an interesting post, describing our hobby. The problem is, the rest of the exchange got into the person showing up for work when no one was there, the fact that having to go to work shortened an important date, a description if the purse the person received for Christmas from an aunt she hates...

Yes Bruce, barbershoppers Twitter, but I can't imagine why.



December Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



Most tastefully presented by Robert Golenbock, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Bob, "You won't have Bradley to kick around anymore," Bradley at 6:10 PM on December 1, 2009, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was tolerated and accepted by Danny Anderson, seconded by Joe Hudson. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The dues that are allocated to the chapter (\$12/member/year) will be sent as a donation to the Harmony Foundation. Approved on a motion by R. Walter, seconded by D. Anderson. Treasurer's report identifying what is known in banking circles as "a humongous chunk o' change" from the Annual show was also approved at the same time, just to keep things moving.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The Chamber of Commerce for a \$200 fee will send copies of a mailer to its 1,550 members. Motion to submit copies plus print an extra 500 copies for First Night approved. We note that Dan Griffin is recuperating from surgery, and Doyle Stoppel is recuperating from a fall.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: We discussed our plans for Valentine's Day. The code name "Operation VD Assault" barely won out over "VD for Everyone." Jimmy Hopper will be our Valentine's Day Committee Chairman. Valentine's Weekend hours: Friday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Sunday Noon to 6:00 PM.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: There was no official meeting. The committee has a new list of songs which we will be presenting to the chorus: "Give My Regards to Broadway," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "This Land is Your Land," "If I Loved You," "Just In Time." We will be using the new technique of learning two new songs at a time. Joe will explain the method and the rationale at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Our Installation Dinner is at the Hearth Restaurant in Brookfield, CT, on January 15. Usual food. Usual price. First Night Danbury this year will see the Mad Hatters playing the Palace, newly refurbished for us. We will be singing in the lobby, but some day we have aspirations to actually sing on stage.

NEW BUSINESS: Plans for our next annual show are already under way. We have reserved Brookfield High School once again for October 2. The Honeymooners will be singing and acting in our show, which at this moment sounds a lot like one of Bob Bradley's technicolor dreams (and we thought he gave that stuff up). We are sending several members to officers training (formerly known as COTS) in January.

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Board of Directors Meeting

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They include Joe Hudson, Dickson DeMarche, Andy Bayer, Bob Bradley, and Danny Anderson.

The Spring Contest, March 19-20, will be hosted by the Danbury Mad Hatters. The Northeastern District will handle most of the details. We will get the Danbury HS Music Honor Society to volunteer.

In appreciation of Bob Bradley's many years of service as chapter president, the Board gave him a vote of thanks. Thanks, Bob, for putting up with us and not complaining!

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andy Bayer

OFFICERS PRESENT: A. Roberts, F. Baran, L. LaPlante, D. Anderson, R. Walter, J. Hopper, R. Bradley, R. Golenbock, J. Hudson

Next meeting will be held on January 5. Spontaneous adjournment occurred at 7:20pm.



Music Basics

*Explained by Tom Wheatley, editor
Dundalk Md. Charivari*

It's time for a quick review of what we've accomplished in the last two issues. In the beginning, we looked at the length of time notes are held. This let us recognize whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes and sixteenth notes.

We also found out that a dot after a note increases the length of time it is held by 50%. The second installment went into most of the symbols that are found at the beginning of lines. Covered were the treble and bass clef signatures, the names of the notes on each staff and the time signature, which often looks something like a fraction. I was going to get into the key signature bit this month, but we have to understand sharps, flats, octaves and intervals a little better first.

First we'll approach the concept of the sharps and flats. These are those symbols you often see at the start of each staff. It's really easy to tell the difference. The sharps are represented by symbols that look like pound or number signs.

This symbol can be related to its name if you recognize that it has eight sharp points sticking out of it. The flats look a lot like the small letter "b."

Each of these two symbols really have only one type of function. A sharp will raise the basic note it is associated with by a half-tone, while a flat will lower it by one half-tone.

If the sharp or flat appears at the beginning of a staff, the half-tone raising or lowering applies to all notes of a given name, regardless of what octave it is in.

In addition to finding sharps or flats at the beginning of staves, they may also occur within the body of the music. These internal notations operate differently from those at the beginning, in that they apply only to the notes within that measure. An exception to that limitation occurs when a note is carried over to the following measure.

Now we'll touch upon the octave. You have often seen the prefix "oct" appear at the beginning of words. You should be aware that an octopus has eight tentacles, an octet has eight singers and October is the eighth month. Well, it used to be, but we won't get into that.

The musical octave from C to C has eight notes in it, if you don't count the black keys. This octave has the notes; C, D, E, F, G, A, B and another note called C. On a piano, these are what you hear when you use only the white keys. Of course, you can't just start with any white key to play the scale of C.

There are some black keys, too. In fact, they are grouped in sets of three and two. The note C that you have to start on is just to the left of a set of two black keys. Now it's time to get a little messy. We said that an octave has eight notes in it, but only if we don't count the black keys. However, they do count. This means that there are 13 notes in an "octave," counting the black keys. Hey, nobody said that music notation was always obvious.

You've often heard of intervals between notes. The BASIC interval of music is the half-tone. Any two adjacent keys will always be a half-tone apart, when you include both black and white ones.

Now go look at the piano and follow the key of C up the scale (white keys only.) You should see that there are two places where two white keys are adjacent. Everywhere else, the white keys are separated by an intervening black key. This means that the notes and normal intervals in the major key or scale of C are:

Notes: Intervals:

C to D two half tones
D to E two half tones
E to F **ONE** half tone
F to G two half tones
G to A two half tones
A to B two half tones
B to C **ONE** half tone.

For ANY OTHER major key or scale, the names of some individual notes will be amended by sharps or flats in the key signature at the beginning of each staff. However, the interval sequence must remain as given above.

The only purpose of those sharps or flats at the beginning of each staff is to retain the above interval relationship.

First Night

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In the 1970s, in an attempt to compete with the multiplexes, the owners of the Palace divided its big space into three small movie theaters, two downstairs and one in the balcony. The theater finally closed in 1995.

In 2008, its current owners began a restoration project that may make the Palace once again a center for movies, shows and live entertainment.



Rare Occasion performing in the Palace's lobby



The HatterTones also performing in the lobby



And the rest of the chorus

Musings From The Music Committee

Submitted by Jim Hopper

The music committee met on December 15 to discuss a variety of issues concerning improving our musical performance as a chorus.

1) Preparation for performances: We agreed that it would be useful if the program chairman and the director decide well in advance of a sing-out the content of the program, including the list of songs and the quartets who will participate. The information will be sent out by email to the chorus at least one week in advance of the performance. This will allow singers to review the music and the raconteur to prepare remarks appropriate to the program.

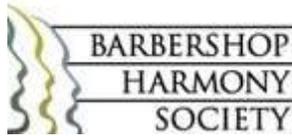
2) To enhance the learning process, it would be helpful if everyone in the chorus used the learning tracks. One thing that might facilitate this is for each member to have an MP3 player to use. Dick Zang agreed to investigate a bulk purchase at minimal cost for those who do not have one and would like to use one. Dick said he got one for around \$15, so the cost is not prohibitive.

3) Our esteemed director requested a change in the schedule for learning new music so that we could work on two new songs at the same time rather than just tackling one at a time. When we realized he didn't actually mean "at the same time," but in the same rehearsal, we agreed to give his method a try. Maybe Charles Ives would like doing them simultaneously, but we were not willing to be that radical.

4) Section rehearsals seem to be needed more often than we have been doing them. One way to clear up problems with notes in each section is to have quick section discussions during rehearsal for about five minutes to immediately deal with problems without breaking out to separate rooms, which takes up a lot more time. We tried this in a recent rehearsal and it worked well. We will continue to incorporate this, as well as longer separate section rehearsals.

5) The teaching quartet (Golenbock, Zang, Hudson and Hopper) agreed to schedule at least two rehearsals per month to make sure they can keep up with the schedule of learning new songs and the taping of learning tracks. We agreed that new songs will not be chosen without the music committee actually hearing the teaching quartet (or a recording of another quartet) sing the song. Picking a song just because we like the song is not always a good method, since the arrangement must be evaluated for quality and difficulty. That will be the primary job of the teaching quartet, who will then make a recommendation to the music committee.

New songs in the queue are: "Give My Regards To Broadway," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "This Land Is Your Land," "Lullaby In Ragtime," and "If I Loved You."



Society and District Notes



Be A Blogger

As many of you have probably heard, The Harmony Society has launched a new group blog, barbershopHQ.com, aimed at keeping our members better informed and better connected with the leadership of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

We see this blog as an important step toward better communications among all barbershoppers.

BarbershopHQ.com has a different mission from www.barbershop.org. As a blog, barbershopHQ.com is about what's happening right NOW. The most current information will always be at the top of the page.

It is a place where Society leaders share what they are thinking and talking about right NOW, and a place where you can respond directly and immediately, influence the thinking of Society leaders in a public forum. Your comments and feedback are what barbershopHQ.com is all about.

CEO Ed Watson, Society President Bill Biffle, Immediate Past President Noah Funderburg, and Executive Vice President Alan Lamson, plus members of the headquarters leadership team and marketing and PR staff will all serve as blog authors. Guest authors will also make frequent contributions as well.

Please leave your comments, questions or suggestions in the comment areas.

Expect to see many updates each week on a variety of topics, from fun ideas and late-breaking news to posts intended to open a serious dialog. Please visit the site often and become part of a n important online barbershop community!

Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings.

This is a special invitation FOR YOU to attend a VERY SPECIAL & UNIQUE opportunity being offered at the upcoming NED Leadership Academy in Worcester, MA, on January 9th.

It's a special workshop offered by Chuck Greene called Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings.

It's a *workshop*, not a seminar, not a lecture. Participants will interact as a chapter, checking out the new strategies, test-driving the new tools and taking them home.

It is highly recommended and strongly suggested that the Music Director or Interim Music Director(s) and the Music Vice President, Section Leaders, Program Vice President and Membership Vice President along with any influential members attend the workshop to get its full benefit.

Compellingly attractive chapter meetings are the heartbeat of viability and the most important pre-requisite for growth.

For more information, please select the link below and download the PDF document.

<http://www.nedistrict.org/uploads/NED-LeadAc-Workshop-CACM-invite1.pdf>

If you have any problems downloading, please email me and I will send the PDF document to you directly.

Then - please share and discuss among YOUR chapter leadership this week and sign-up today!

Thank you!
Steve Salamin
2010 DVP - Chapter Development

Thank You

Sandy and I send our very best wishes to all our friends this holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and may the New Year bring all of you the blessings and happiness you wish for.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all NED barbershoppers for sharing with me such a wonderful two years as your district president. We have visited many chapters, enjoyed quite a few shows, sung with you at all the conventions and the schools, and have made so many great new friends. We traveled to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and, of course, New York.

I will always cherish the memories you have given me. I expect to see many of you from time to time as we move forward together to new and exciting times in our hobby.

"May the sun shine warm upon your face."

Walt and Sandy Lane

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A guy comes into a coffee shop and places his order. He says "I want three flat tires, a pair of headlights and a pair of running boards."

The waiter, a barbershop bass who doesn't want to appear stupid, goes to the kitchen and asks the cook, "This guy out there just ordered three flat tires, a pair of headlights and pair of running boards. What does he think, this is an auto parts store?"

"No" the cook says, "three flat tires means three pancakes and a pair of headlights is two eggs sunny side up and running boards is two slices crisp bacon."

"Oh," says the waiter. He thinks about this for a while, and then spoons up a bowl of beans and gives it to the customer.

The guy says, "What are the beans for?"

The waiter replies, "I thought while you were waiting for the flat tires, headlights and running boards, you might want to gas up."



As a jet was flying over Arizona on a clear day, the copilot was providing his passengers with a running commentary about landmarks over the PA system.

"Coming up on the right, you can see the Meteor Crater, which is a major tourist attraction in northern Arizona. It was formed when a lump of nickel and iron, roughly 150 feet in diameter and weighing 300,000 tons, struck the earth 50,000 years ago at about 40,000 miles an hour, scattering white-hot debris for miles in every direction. The hole measures nearly a mile across and is 570 feet deep."

The man next to me, who was a barbershop bass, exclaimed: "Wow, look! It just missed the highway!"



Bill, a barbershop bass, received a bill from the hospital for his recent surgery and was astonished to see a \$900 fee for the anesthesiologist. He called the doctor's office to demand an explanation.

"Is this some kind of mistake?" Bill asked when he finally got the doctor on the phone.

"No, not at all," the doctor said calmly.

"Well," said Bill, "that's awfully costly for knocking someone out."

"Not at all," replied the doctor. "I knock you out for free. The 900 dollars is for bringing you back around."



A disappointed salesman of Coca-Cola, who was also a barbershop bass, returned from his assignment to Israel. A friend asked, "Why weren't you successful with the Israelis?"

The salesman explained, "When I got posted, I was very confident that I would make a good sales pitch. But I had a problem. I didn't know how to speak Hebrew. So I planned to convey the message through three posters:

First poster : A man lying in the hot desert sand ... totally exhausted and fainting.

Second poster: The man is drinking Coca-Cola.

Third poster: Our man is now totally refreshed. And then these posters were pasted all over the place.

"Terrific! That should have worked!" said the friend.

"The hell it should have!" said the salesman. "No one told me Hebrew is read from right to left!"



January Rehearsal Schedule

Submitted by Lyle LaPlante

Another year begins! New songs, new venues, the Division contest and convention hosting. But most important are the weekly meetings that bring us together in song and camaraderie. Here's our plan for January. We will probably have one coaching session, and so the plan for that week will be moved to the following week.



To help prepare for contest, we also plan to have two extra Thursday rehearsals in January and February and one in March.

January 5

6:00 Board Meeting
7:30 Warmups, Craft and Tags
8:00 Inspirational Repertoire
8:30 Break
8:45 Business Meeting
8:55 Fun time
9:10 "Give My Regards to Broadway(GMRB)"
9:35 "Hey, Look Me Over" choreography
10:00 KTWWS

January 12

7:30 Warmups, Craft and Tags

January 12 Continued

8:00 Patriotic Repertoire
8:30 Break
8:45 Business meeting
8:55 Fun time
9:10 GMRB
9:35 "Over the Rainbow"
10:00 KTWWS

January 19

6:30 Music Committee Meeting
7:30 Warmups, Craft and Tags
8:00 Performance A Repertoire
8:30 Break
8:45 Business meeting
8:55 Fun time

January 19 Continued

9:10 GMRB
9:35 "Hey, Look Me Over"
10:00 KTWWS

January 26

6:45 Tag time for those who can make it
7:30 Warmups/craft/tags
8:00 Performance B repertoire
8:30 Break – meeting of January 27 performance attendees
8:45 Business Meeting
8:55 Fun time
9:10 GMRB
9:35 "Over the Rainbow"
10:00 KTWWS

Current Repertoire

Inspirational

I Believe
Lord's Prayer
Amazing Grace
Let There Be Peace On Earth

Patriotic

God Bless America
Star Spangled Banner
America the Beautiful

In progress

The Way You Look Tonight
Give My Regards To Broadway
Way Down Deep You're Shallow

Performance A

Always
I Feel a Song Coming On
Thanks for the Memory
You Make Me Feel So Young
Cabaret
Hey, Look Me Over
Heart



"He who sings
scares away
his woes"

Miguel de Cervantes
Saavedra

Performance B

Million Dollar Baby
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows
Sh-Boom
How Are Things In Glocca Morra
Over The Rainbow
Please, Mr. Columbus
There Is Nothing Like a Dame
Work your fingers to the bone, and what do you get? (Bony fingers, Bony fingers)

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:	Dickson DeMarche
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dick Walter
Member at Large:	Fred Baran
Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Charlie Rosa
Program Committee Chairman	Lyle LaPlante
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

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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

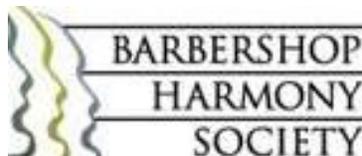
January Milestones

Birthdays:

4 - Pat Sutherland
4 - Craig Johnson
6 - Charlie Rosa
6 - Don Smith
30 - Chuck Kreiger

Wedding Anniversaries:

14 - Bill and Gloria Keenan



Mark Your Calendars

January 7: Northeastern District Leadership Academy, Worcester State College, Worcester, MA. For details: <http://www.nedistrict.org>

January 12: Mad Hatter Sing-out, Hancock Hall, 31 Staples St., Danbury. Warm-up 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

January 15: Mad Hatter Officers' Installation Dinner: Hearth Restaurant, 756 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT. 6:00 PM. The menu is as follows: Stuffed Chicken, \$21.00; Scrod, \$22.50; Stuffed Shrimp, \$24.50, Prime Rib, \$26.00

January 16: Chapter Show, Silk City Chorus, Manchester, CT. Manchester High School, two shows (matinee - 1:00 P.M, evening - 7:00 P.M.). \$28.

January 27: Mad Hatter Sing-out, Danbury Men's Club, Hatters Community Park, 7 E. Hayestown Road, Danbury. Warm-up 10:30 AM, sing 11:00 AM.

February 16: Mad Hatter Sing-out, Bethel Health Care Center, Cascades. 13 Parklawn Drive, Bethel, CT. Warm-up 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

March 20: Yankee Division Convention. Danbury High School. Details to be announced.

March 23: Mad Hatter Sing-out, Ridgefield Crossings, 640 Danbury Rd., Ridgefield, CT. Warm-up 6:30 PM, sing 7:00 PM.

October 2: Mad Hatter Annual Show. Brookfield High School.

June 28 - July 4, 2010

Philadelphia, PA



Hotel reservations will be available starting January 15th, 2010.
Headquarters Hotel: Philadelphia Marriott Downtown
Contest Venue: Pennsylvania Convention Center