



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

Volume 19 Number 3

www.madhatterchorus.org

March 2012

Vocalists Vie in Village of Voorheesville

by Dick Zang and John Bradley

Voorheesville, NY - We don't know if it was the venue, our volume, our verses, our vowels or our voices that validated our victory at the vernal competition in Voorheesville. All we know is that the Mad Hatters are once again the Yankee Division Small Chorus Champions, finishing fifth overall in the combined Yankee and Mountain Division Chorus Finals on March 17.

Sporting various shades of blue shirts and our striking zebra ties, our 20 guys scored well with "On the Sunny Side Of the Street" and "It's Only a Paper Moon" – doing a little better with the latter.

Songs	Music	Presentation	Singing
On the Sunny Side of the Street	188	195	185
It's Only a Paper Moon	189	195	191
<i>Total:</i>	<i>Average</i>		
1143	63.5		

The Manchester, CT, chorus finished on top of the Yankee Division and outscored all Mountain Division competitors with an average score of 70.6. Right behind Manchester were three Mountain Division groups: Burlington, Saratoga Springs, and Schenectady.



Joe Hudson leading the Mad Hatters.
Picture by Steve Salamin

Two Danbury quartets competed in the Yankee Division Quartet Finals on Friday night. Loco Fedora sang "Ten Feet Off the Ground" and "If I Loved You," scoring a 62.4 average and finishing third. Traveling Men, singing "I'll Be Seeing You" and "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye," scored a 58.6 average and won the Yankee Division Most Improved award.



Loco Fedora vocalizing in Voorheesville.
Picture by Steve Salamin

The Danbury chorus was also represented in the Very Large Quartet contest. Outburst sang "Cabaret" and "Don't Blame Me," finishing with a 58.4 average.

The quartet contest was complicated because some foursomes were competing out of division for district qualification, some for International Preliminary scores and others for either the Mountain or Yankee Division championship.

The Friday night results showed that Bullseye, from the Burlington chapter, is the Mountain Division Champion and that Timely Gents, from Hartford and Manhattan, is the Yankee Division Champion. Quartets competing for spots at International sang on Friday and Saturday.

Two quartets qualified for International competition by scoring better than a 76: our favorites, Men In Black, with a solid 85.2 and 'Round Midnight, from New York, with an 83.7. Downtown Crossing fell just short with a 74.8.

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Contest

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It was a great convention hosted by the Electric City Chorus of Schenectady. The headquarters hotel was the same as last year, but the contest venue this time was the middle school in Voorheesville. More on the Voorhees family later.

The judges' critiques for the quartets and chorus were once again constructive and gave us a lot to work on. Fortunately, the VLQ did not have to listen to judges' comments; the ten members agreed that the next time they compete more formal rehearsals might be in order.

I'm sure all of the Mad Hatters took away a special moment or two from the weekend. For me (Dick Zang) it was listening to the Average Joes, last year's District champs, who set up camp in the school lobby. I was impressed with how well they sang and how much they enjoyed performing. They are singing in Portland, Maine on the same night as our show. Maybe if they hurried they could get to Danbury in time for our afterglow.

Vorheesville

Now about Voorheesville: You may have guessed that it is eponymous – and you are right. The Voorhees family is the largest Dutch family in the U.S. The patriarch, Steven Coerten van Voorhees, arrived in Western Nassau Eylandt (Brooklyn) in 1660 on the Bonte Koe (the Spotted Cow). The family spread from there to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and upstate New York.

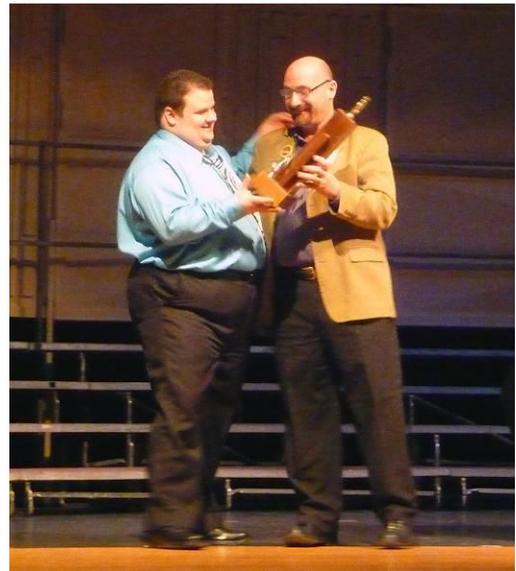


Here's a picture of one of the more famous Voorhees – U.S. Senator Daniel Woolsey Voorhees from Ohio. You may remember him. He was appointed by Gov. Blue Jeans Williams to fill the unexpired seat of Oliver P. Morton in 1877. The A. A. Van Voorhees Voorhies & Company made saddles for the Pony

Express, and Donald Voorhees led the Bell Telephone Hour Orchestra on radio and television for 28 years. There is a Voorhees, NJ, but I couldn't find any specific reference to our Voorheesville. You may want to try yourself. The family association has a FaceBook page.

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

"It was the first time I'd seen a live sponge on display, and I really soaked it in."



We won! Director Joe Hudson (left), receives a trophy on behalf of the Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus, who captured the Best Small Chorus award in the Barbershop Harmony Society's Yankee Division contest in Voorheesville, NY. Picture by Terry Dunkle



Outburst performing on Saturday afternoon. Picture by Steve Salamin



The Northeastern District's best – Men in Black. Picture by Steve Salamin.

InterChapter Night

Danbury, CT – On Tuesday night, March 20th, the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus celebrated its recently won Yankee Division Small Chorus championship with members of other local barbershop chapters.

Joining the celebrants was Sean Devine, lead of the 2008 Barbershop Harmony Society's International Quartet Champion OC Times, and current Society staff member who spoke to the assemblage on behalf of Harmony Foundation.

An evening of fabulous harmonies, finger foods and fun filled the Church of Christ.



*Members of the Waterbury – Derby chorus.
Picture by Terry Dunkle*



Traveling Men showing off their most improved award from the Yankee Division contests. Picture by Terry Dunkle.



*And what do barbershoppers love to sing about?
Picture by John Bradley*



Jim Hopper vainly tries to keep leads on key while teaching a tag to the combined choruses. Picture by John Bradley.

Mad Hatter Hall of Fame

At our installation dinner in January, **Dick Walter** became the latest inductee into the Mad Hatter Hall Of Fame. One of our new gus asked who else was in the HOF.

Well, it's a short list and it begins with our founder, **Ed Firmender**. Ed had been a member of the Bridgeport Chapter and, after moving to Brookfield, decided that the Danbury area was ready for barbershop. He organized the chapter in 1966 and put on our first show with 37 members at Danbury High School.

The others are long-time director **Ray Wixted**, past International President **Dick Ellenberger**, chapter president and bulletin editor **Bob Bartley**, directors **Don Sutherland** and **Bill Manion**, and **Bob Connelley**, whose resume of chapter contributions runs to eleven pages.

Chorus Croons at Cascades

Bethel, CT – If singing along is an indication of an audience enjoying a show, then the crowd at the Danbury Mad Hatters' appearance at Cascades Assisted Living at the Bethel Health Center on February 21st had a great time.

It was the first time in anyone's memory that the chorus was led by three different directors: Dr. Robert Golenbock, Jim Hopper and Dr. Wynn Wilcox. However, even with three directors, the chorus had problems finding the correct floor and room in which to perform.

Travelling Men and Rare Occasion, with Dick Zang as guest bass, were the two chorus quartets to sing.



The audience sings along with the Mad Hatters at the Cascades.

Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Sunday February 19th, we appeared at the Chili Cookoff Festival held at the Danbury Ice Arena. This event is staged to raise funds to support both the Danbury Westerners Baseball Team and the Danbury Whalers Ice Hockey Team. During our "pro bono" appearance, we moved to different locations throughout the Arena and entertained the crowd and many friends in the audience.

One of these friends was Lauren Singer. We had sung for her and her First Grade Class at Mill Ridge School in Danbury on Valentine's Day.

We also spoke with Jack Deering about singing at the Westerners' "Vintage Baseball Game" to be held on Saturday, June 9, at Rodgers Park.

Jack is a Director of the Westerners and is also chairman of a charitable fund set up in memory of his wife, Carolyn Deering, called the RN Memorial Nursing Educational Fund.

We are making plans for both Rare Occasion and the Mad Hatters Chorus to appear at a day-long picnic and charity softball game between the Danbury Hospital doctors and nurses to be held at Hatter's Park on Saturday, September 29,



2012. The event will help raise money for the RN Nurses Education Fund to aid those nurses seeking to continue their education and training.

On Monday, March 12, Jim Hopper and I had breakfast at Elmer's Diner with Paul Just, the original Lead of Rare Occasion, who is retired and living in Homosassa, Florida. Paul has three children and nine grandchildren living in the Danbury Area and was visiting his family. He promises to plan his next visit so he can attend a chorus rehearsal and sing with us again.

Paul and Bill Manion, our original bass, sing with the Hernando Harmonizers Chorus in Weeki-Watchee, Florida, and have formed a new quartet called Sound Byte.

As we were saying good-bye, we managed to sing "My Wild Irish Rose" in three-part harmony with Jim singing bass.

Loco Fedora – By Dick Zang

Loco Fedora, in addition to working on learning tracks for the chorus, has been trying its hand (or more properly, its collective tonsils) on a few songs in contests.

First, a tip of our fedoras to Robert Golenbock for making the trip up to Voorheesville to sing our two songs and then to immediately jump in his car to catch a few winks before catching a flight to Honduras.

While our chorus was singing on Saturday he was on his way with his pediatric medical team for a week of volunteer work with local children. He's made this trip for several years now and deserves our admiration for the sacrifices he's made and the good that he and his team has done.

The other three of us listened to the comments of the judges – the good and the not-so-good. We finished in the middle of the pack with a score of 62.4, just missing the 62.5 necessary to automatically qualify for the district competition in October. But there still is a chance that we will be invited depending on the results of the other division competitions.

We'd like to have another chance because we think we can put to good use some of the constructive criticism we received in Albany.



Humor in Music

A C, an E-flat, and a G go into a bar. The bartender says: "Sorry, but we don't serve minors." So, the E-flat leaves, and the C and the G have an open fifth between them.

After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and the G is out flat. An F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough.

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Humor

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A D comes into the bar and heads straight for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second."

An A comes into the bar, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor.

Then the bartender notices a B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and exclaims: "Get out now! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

The E-flat, not easily deflated, comes back to the bar the next night in a 3-piece suit with nicely shined shoes. The bartender (who used to have a nice corporate job until his company downsized) says: "You're looking sharp tonight, come on in! This could be a major development."

This proves to be the case, as the E-flat takes off the suit, and everything else, and stands there *au naturel*.

Eventually, the C sobers up, and realizes in horror that he's under a rest.

The C is brought to trial, is found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of DS without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.

On appeal, however, the C is found innocent of any wrongdoing, even accidental, and that all accusations to the contrary are baseless.

Emails to the Editors



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

A friend of mine brought me to her husband's barbershop show recently. I enjoyed it very much, but was wondering why there are no women on stage with the men. Are there female barbershoppers?
Kate from Kent

Kate, there are many female barbershoppers and, like the male Barbershop Harmony Society, there are organizations for female barbershop singers. Harmony Incorporated (<http://www.harmonyinc.org>) calls itself the "International Organization of Women Barbershop Singers," while Sweet Adelines International (<http://www.sweetadelinesintl.org>) calls itself "a worldwide organization of women singers committed

to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance."

In addition, a worldwide association for mixed groups, the Mixed Harmony Barbershop Quartet Association was established in 1995 to reflect the growing popularity of male-female barbershop singing (<http://mixedbarbershop.com>).



Repertoire Notes

River of No Return is the title song of the 1954 American Western film directed by Otto Preminger and starring Robert Mitchum and Marilyn Monroe. The screenplay by Frank Fenton is based on a story by Louis Lantz, who borrowed his premise from the 1948 Italian film *The Bicycle Thief*.¹

Gloria Wood provided the singing voice of Marilyn Monroe, in the song, "River of No Return."

In later years, Monroe claimed *River of No Return* was her worst film, and Preminger spoke bitterly about her in numerous interviews. It wasn't until January 1980, when being interviewed for the *New York Daily News*, that he conceded, "She tried very hard, and when people try hard, you can't be mad at them."



The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

It is "Great to be a barbershopper!" We say this each week as we end our evening together. It is "Great to be a Mad Hatter!" We have a great group of men who are singing and working together to further our hobby and to share our joy with our audiences. We are blessed with men who step up and take on tasks for the greater good of the chapter

Two men who do this each month are the editors of the *Hatter Chatter*. John Bradley and Dick Zang work tirelessly with this great newsletter. Often I, for one, have to be reminded to submit an article. They come up with great information each month; both are very creative men! Thank you for your contributions to the chapter.

It is "Great to be a Mad Hatter" because we have defended our position as Yankee Division Small Chorus champions. All the men who attended the competition put in several hours of work honing the songs and movements. It should be noted that we learned and performed a brand new song over a short period of time. We all should be proud of that accomplishment. We will polish that song and should score better at the next competition.

The chapter hosted an inter-chapter meeting a couple of weeks ago.

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Podium

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Our attendance was good, we made our guests feel at home and above all the food provided was good. The evening featured Sean Devine speaking on behalf of the Youth in Harmony and Harmony Foundation.

After his talk, many of you stepped up to make a financial pledge. Thanks to each of you. As many may know this chapter supports Youth in Harmony by sending the chapter dues (obtained when members renew each year) to Youth in Harmony.

Now our attention must shift to our annual show. We have a lot of work to do in preparation and I am sure we will rise to the challenge. The selling of advertisements is imperative. We are late in starting this effort, but I know we will do a great job here as well. The goal for selling program advertising is to bring in enough revenue to cover the expenses of the show: hall rental, guest performers, advertisement, etc. If we do this, then the ticket sales would be net income for the chapter's operating fund.

The advertising has begun for our show. The publicity team of Wynn Wilcox, Terry Dunkle, and Al Paparesta has developed the show flyer, which was on display at the competition. Media advertisement has been planned for newspapers, web pages, Patch sites, radio and community TV.

The best advertisement is that which each member does. I encourage each member to reach out to his family, friends, neighbors, club members, etc. inviting them to the show. We need to show these people how "Great It Is to Be a Barber Shopper."

Twist & Shout

By René Torres

Execution of choreography is an inevitable part of barbershop singing. Since the quality of sound is paramount, how do you cope with choreography while at the same time maintaining a good sound? That's the subject of this article.

The Performer's Stance

Basically, the best singing position is one where you are standing comfortably, with your weight evenly distributed on both feet, with a slight "lift" to the body, as in eager expectation. This position has the advantage of keeping your air path straight and uninterrupted. There is a straight-line relationship between your diaphragm muscles (for support), your lungs, trachea (voice box), throat, and facial cavities. This position allows you to apply only the required amount of breath support to the diaphragm and still have a consistent steady sound.

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March Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted in its entirety by Robert Golenbock, Secretary



Meeting called to order by Danny "Just stop talking and agree with me" Anderson at 6:07 pm on March 6, 2012 at the Church of Christ in Danbury, CT.

SECRETARY'S REPORT was received under cover of darkness on a motion by Walter, and seconded by Hudson, on condition that he remain nameless.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our year-to-date cash flow is positive at this time. For the record the checkbook signers are Danny Anderson, Dickson DeMarche, Dick Walter, and Robert Golenbock. Danny Anderson has the debit card in his possession. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Lyle LaPlante has resigned as Vice President of Programming as he is taking some time off from singing. We hope to see him back very soon. There are no members who are behind in their dues. Wynn Wilcox reports that Frank Fehling has been in poor health. Members are urged to give him a call.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Wynn Wilcox and Al Paparesta are working on PR for membership by using no- or low-cost advertising. We are especially targeting younger men. The advertising for Singing Valentines was very effective, and we hope to build on that.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The Committee is recommending Grieg's "Brothers Sing On" as a non-Barbershop piece that can be used as an opening number to establish us as an a cappella group with a varied repertoire.

OLD BUSINESS: Our annual show is set to be held at Westconn on May 12. Terry Dunkle is working on the poster. The price for tickets is \$20/\$15 students and seniors.

We are still discussing how we can best make use of the Dunkle family's generous gift. The theme of the Memorial Fund is Keep Music Alive, and the goal is to help membership growth. Suggested uses include student member scholarships and partnerships with local high school music funds. We plan to put a sign at our show for donations and to seek matching funds from local companies.

Our Inter-Chapter meeting is on March 20, 2012.

We wish to recognize our charitable activities in our minutes. Recently we sang at the Chili Cook-Off in Danbury to help raise funds for local charities, and we donated Singing Valentines for veterans.

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Board Meeting

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NEW BUSINESS: We recommend that all Board members peruse our by-laws. If there are any recommendations to change them, those recommendations should be brought to the Board meeting.

We will need a non-Board meeting to audit the books. There is no truth to the rumor that the audit will take place after our Treasurer retires to Brazil.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Zlamany, Dan Griffin, Albert Einstein.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Dickson DeMarche, Art Roberts, Terry Dunkle, Dick Walter, Joe Hudson, Danny Anderson, Wynn Wilcox, Robert Golenbock.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm. Next meeting on April 13, 2012.



*Pay no attention to the man under the armpit!
Picture by Terry Dunkle.*

Twist

Continued from the previous page

As long as you stay in this position, you will have a great deal of control over expressive nuances, intensity, color, etc. Problems begin to show up when you deviate from this relaxed, almost unconscious singing position, and begin to move your body in time with the music.

The key to a consistent sound--in any position – is to try to keep the relationship of that air path as straight as possible no matter what your position.

Basic Side Steps

There are several basic body positions as you sing, and several basic transitions to keep in mind. Let's take the transitions first. Easy, slow steps as you sing are probably the most common of moves for the lower body. If they are done slowly, there is basically no difference than if you were standing still.

The primary thing you have to keep in mind is not to step too hard, because if you do this, your sound will jolt, and the effect will be noticeable to the audience. This is usually the case for side-to-side steps as well.

Do not sway from the waist as this type of movement may kink your air path. If you have to move sideways, use your lower body as a pivot point. The entire upper body should sway as one piece, and keep trying to touch the ceiling with your head. This will prevent droopy posture and droopy sound.

Advanced Steps

Next in difficulty is stepping up or down (as on risers). Now the problem becomes complicated, because other muscles come into play that could affect your sound quality. A step up uses lower back muscles, and they are also being used to support the sound. As a result, if you do not compensate for the extra tension as you move up, the sound will momentarily sound forced (like when punched in the stomach). The best way around this is to see if you can time the step to coincide with a breath.

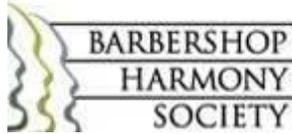
That way, you are not singing at that moment, and no harm is done. If you can do this, take the breath just before stepping up. Then time the move such that you start letting out the breath and sound just before you complete the move. In that way, the attack does not sound plosive. If you are not able to time the step and are forced to sing as you move, then the best thing to do is to back off slightly on your conscious breath support while those muscles are tensed for the move.

Remember, though, that if you do this, two things can happen: The note will tend to go flat, and the color will diminish. Therefore, if you are conscious of it, you can correct for the quality of sound as you go. If you do it right, the volume does not necessarily diminish.

Stepping down has its own set of problems. As mentioned before, the best approach is to step down while you are taking a breath, but this is not always possible. There is an unconscious instinct to look down to see where you are going to step. This drops the body, bends the throat, kinks the airway, and directs the sound to the floor. It takes your eyes off the director.

Needless to say, none of these are good things. Against your instinct, you must train yourself to already know where you are going to step. Get to the point where you can step down without looking, keep the body raised, and face the audience so the sound goes forward.

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Society and District Notes



Harmony University Scholarships

Thanks to donations to the Harmony Foundation, Scholarships are still available to HU 2012 for all Quartets and Directors. There is a limited number, so ACT FAST!

QUARTETS - For all quartets, you can bring your baritone free!

<http://www.barbershop.org/bring-your-baritone-free.html>

Advertise - 2012 Spring Contest Programs

Advertise YOUR BARBERSHOP harmony! Either as a singer, leader or lover of barbershop harmony!

This is it! The final call for display advertising in the second of the NED 2012 Spring Contest programs - for the Granite & Pine and Patriot division contests!

No more procrastinating! Now is the right time for all good men and women to market their quartet, chorus, event, profession, best wishes to contestants, class, workshop, show, greetings or anything you would like! For more info, prices, layout and guidelines, follow this link for the PDF Info/Order Sheet:

<http://www.nedistrict.org/uploads/2012-Spring2-AdReservationForm1.pdf>

Or, go to the NED 2012 Spring EASTERN Regional & Prelims Contest page & scroll down, look on the right:

http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=64

Any questions? Please - feel free to email me - and ask!

The deadline for placing ads is this ... Monday, March 26th at midnight! Yikes! Already? Yes!

(I'm easy - get your ad in, or your commitment, by Monday PM, and send the payment later in the week. No problem!)

Sing-cerely,

Steve Salamin
Editor, Contest Programs



QUARTETS - looking to advance to the International Stage? - ALL 4 OF YOU could come for free thanks to Larry Ajer!

<http://www.barbershop.org/larry-ajer-scholarship.html>

DIRECTORS - that have not gone to HU on a Directors College scholarship in the last 5 years.

<http://www.barbershop.org/directors-college-scholarship.html>

Check out all scholarship criteria at:

<http://www.barbershop.org/education/harmony-university/scholarships.html>

See you in St Joe!

Harmoniously,

Paul

Paul Wietlisbach, Director Of Education, Barbershop Harmony Society

W: 615-673-4130 C: 615-495-9313 Fax: 615-313-7619 (Fax)

New England Harmony Brigade is Moving Forward:

We are pleased to say that we have met our goal and then some and that the inaugural New England Harmony Brigade is moving ahead full steam. We can still take applicants in all voice parts although we have been filling up fast.

If you are a quartet man, and really love quartetting, then this is the event for you. You will get to learn 12 international quality arrangements and sing them with people who take quartetting as seriously as you do. People who will be meticulously prepared and ready to sing from Friday night until Sunday noon. And you will sing them in lots of different combinations with these other equally prepared singers.

You'll participate in a quartet contest Friday and Saturday with a randomly drawn quartet and singing a randomly drawn-song. Then on Saturday night, you will be in a "chorus" that has only had one rehearsal but that will compare with some of those on the international stage.

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Notes

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Breakout quartets' will also sing, including our "judges" for the weekend, MEN IN BLACK.

To see what this can be like, please check out the other Harmony Brigades' web sites or Facebook sites. The one closest is

The Atlantic Harmony Brigade in Wilmington DE, www.atlanticharmonybrigade.com. You can see what their quartets and chorus looks like.

If you are serious about quartetting, or want to et in a serious quartet and believe you have the "moxie" to do so, you don't want to miss this event. For more information, check out our Facebook page or go to www.nehb.net.

Yours, In Harmony,
Lee Daum
lee.daum@nehb.net
President-the New England Harmony Brigade

Shout

Continued from the previous page

Stepping down also involves relaxing diaphragm muscles to allow the body to bend. Some of those muscles could be engaged in breath support, and stepping down will cause loss of breath support. It takes a conscious effort to maintain control while singing.

Stepping up and down while singing takes practice, as does everything we wish to do well. A good exercise to try at home for both of these transitions is to hold a comfortable note as you climb and descend stairs. You will see the problems as they affect you. Climb up and come down the stairs facing backwards (be careful!), and facing forwards, but looking back. These are the two typical stage moves where you wish to sing towards the audience. As you get good at it, try some progressively harder notes and see what happens.

Head Moves

Let's consider the upper part of the body. Head moves are the easiest to do, provided you are aware that the air paths must stay open. Jerky moves are always something to avoid, as the sound comes out jerky as well.

Looking up and down presents the possibility of complications. We already mentioned the problems of looking down when we covered stepping down; and as suggested, simply avoid it. If it is a planned move.

However, the trick is to tilt slightly back as you look down.

Try to do this as imperceptibly as possible, and your sound quality will be less degraded.

Looking up is good for the voice! It is probably the one move where your posture improves the sound quality.

The benefit occurs if you do not tense the neck muscles and do not look up too far. Tense neck and throat muscles will pinch the sound.

Arm Moves

After facial expressions, the arms are the most used parts of the body for choreography. Their use is entirely a matter of timing as far as sound production is concerned. Try this simple exercise. Stand erect with your feet together, and then raise your arms as you exhale, and lower them as you inhale.

Repeat this exercise five times, and form a mental image of what your lungs are sensing. Then, reverse the procedure, and raise your arms as you inhale, lower them as you exhale for five repetitions.

Normally it is easier to raise the arms as you inhale and lower them as you exhale. This is so, because your rib cage is being helped to expand as you raise your arms. Thus, the best arm moves for singing are those that allow you to take a breath as you raise the arms, and sing as you lower them. Up on the breath, down on the sound.

Any move becomes more complicated when performed at a faster tempo or in combination with other moves. So try to think the move through at home and, if all else fails, remember that the sound is paramount. Do what you have to do to preserve its quality.

2012
Harmony College
NORTHEAST
Aug. 10-12 • Worcester State University

Reserve the date! Mark your calendars!

Special Guests & Teaching Quartet:

TNS
8th-place Int'l Finalists in 2011
(they might be at the top by August!)

WATCH!
More info posted when available!



Ye Olde Joke Boarde

Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

One baritone asks the other, "How did you die"?

"I froze to death," says the second.

"That's awful," says the first baritone. "How does it feel to freeze to death?"

"It's very uncomfortable at first," says the second baritone. "You get the shakes, and you get pains in all your fingers and toes. But eventually, it's a very calm way to go. You get numb and you kind of drift off, as if you're sleeping."

"How about you, how did you die?" asked the second baritone.

"I had a heart attack," says the first baritone. "You see I knew my wife was cheating on me, so one day I showed up at home unexpectedly. I ran up to the bedroom, and found her alone watching TV. I ran to the basement, but no one was hiding there either. I ran to the second floor, but no one was hiding there either. I ran as fast as I could to the attic, and just as I got there, I had a massive heart attack and died."

The second baritone shakes his head. "What a pity. If you had only looked in the freezer, we'd both still be alive."

A pair of Irish ditch diggers, who were also barbershop baritones, were repairing some roadside damage directly across the street from a house of ill repute when they witnessed a Protestant Minister lurking about and then ducking into the house.

"Would ye look at that, Darby!" said Pat. "What a shameful disgrace, a Protestant Reverend sinning in a house the likes of that place!"

They both shook their heads in disgust and continued their work. A short time later they watched as a Rabbi looked around himself cautiously and then darted into the house when he was satisfied no one had spied him.

"Did ya see that, Darby?" Is nothing holy? I just can't understand what the world is coming to these days. A man of the cloth indulging himself in sins of the flesh. Tis a shame, I tell ya!"

Not long had passed when they saw a third man, a Catholic priest, lurking about the house looking around to see if anyone was watching and then quietly sneaking in the door. "Oh no, Darby, look!" Said Pat removing his cap. "One o' the poor girls musta died!"

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
If I Had a Nose Full of Nickels, I'd
Sneeze Them All Atchoo!

In Progress/Upcoming

From The First Hello
It's Only A Paper Moon
She Made Toothpicks Out Of The
Timber Of My Heart
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
Brookfield, CT 06804-5149

President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Jim Hopper
Assistant Director:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
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Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Vacant
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

March Milestones

Birthdays

13 - Pete Huester
15 - Terry Dunkle
22 - Vera Baran
25 - Nick Godano

Wedding Anniversaries

No anniversaries in March.



Mark Your Calendars

April 17 (Tuesday): Chapter Singout. Ridgefield Crossings Senior Living. 640 Danbury Road, Ridgefield, CT. Warm-up 6:30, sing 7:00.

May 5 (Saturday): Chapter Singout. Meadow Ridge Assisted Living. 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warm-up 3:30, sing 4:00.

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

May 27 (Sunday): Chapter Singout. Richter House, 2:30 warm-up, sing 3:00. Details to be announced.

May 28 (Monday): Chapter Singout. Ballantine Park, Southbury. 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

