



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

May 2012

Mad Hatters Make Marvelous Movie Music

By John Bradley

Danbury, CT – On Saturday evening, May 12, the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus presented its 45th Annual Show at the Ives Concert Hall on the campus of Western Connecticut State University.

Titled *Music From the Movies*, the show recreated the feel of an old-time radio broadcast by station WMAD. The broadcast was a countdown of the greatest Hollywood musical numbers of all time, or at least the ones the chorus knows.

Joining the Mad Hatter Chorus on stage during the first half of the show were its chorus quartets: Real Chemistry (singing the jingles of the show's "sponsors," Motts Apple Juice and Rheingold Beer), Travelling Men, Loco Fedora (who will be competing in the Northeastern District contests this fall) and Rare Occasion.

New York City's Big Apple Chorus, directed by Gold Medal director, Justin Miller, filled the stage in the second half. The Manhattan-based chorus took a break from their preparation for the Barbershop Harmony Society's International contests in Portland, Oregon, this summer to appear on the Mad Hatter's show.



New York City's Big Apple Chorus performing at the Mad Hatter Annual Show. Joe Hudson is seen doing his highly athletic split at the bottom left. Picture by Terry Dunkle.

Sharing Big Apple's set was its own chorus (and International contest qualifying) quartet, Up all Night.

The two choruses joined forces for the show's final number, a stirring arrangement of "Over the Rainbow."

"It was the best show I've seen the chorus perform," said Maggie Seligman, a frequent attendee of Mad Hatter performances. "The guys sang very well."

After the show, the entertainers, friends and loved ones retired to Jim Barbaries Restaurant for drinks, snacks and, of course, more singing.



Up All Night. Picture by Terry Dunkle

Rhythm and Harmony at Richter House

By Dick Zang

Danbury, CT - On Sunday, May 27, a stout-hearted group of Mad Hatters assembled to sing at the Richter House on Aunt Hack Road in Danbury as part of a Performance and Art Show sponsored by the Stanley L. Richter Association for the Arts.

The chorus, under the direction of Joe Hudson, with narration by raconteur, Bob Bradley, was warmly received by the standing room only, appreciative crowd.

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Richter House

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The event was filmed for later broadcast on Comcast - schedule to be announced.

The chorus members were further rewarded by a "special" punch and cookies served by our own "Danbury Doll," Susan Roberts.

The program also featured reminiscences by Danbury native Joseph Farris, a well-known artist now living in Bethel, who served in WW II during the mid 1940's and has recently published *A Soldier's Sketchbook*, an illustrated memoir.

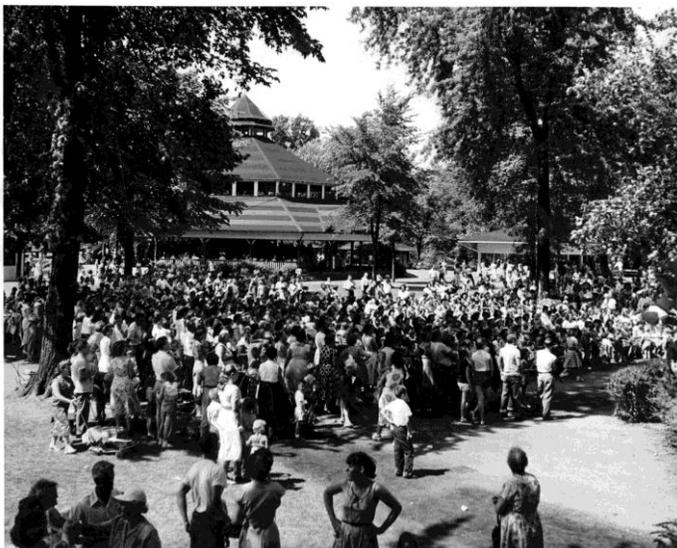
Mad Hatters Remember on Memorial Day

By John Bradley

Southbury, CT – The Mad Hatters once again appeared on Memorial Day at Southbury's Ballentine Park thanks to the Southbury Parks and Recreation Commission and its chairman, Charles Rosa, who is also a chorus bass.

Charley has arranged this appearance at the annual community picnic for the past several years, allowing the chorus to join the town in remembering those who have served their country. This year it was a humid, sticky early afternoon, but that didn't keep the townsfolk and Mad Hatter "groupies" from enjoying the music, hot dogs, face painting for the kids (and some adults) and many other activities.

"Except for the "Charles Ives version" of one of our songs, we performed well today," said chorus music director, Joe Hudson. "It's amazing what a good sound system can do for us."



Southbury residents enjoying the Mad Hatter Chorus on Memorial Day.

Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets



Rare Occasion – By Fred Baran

On Saturday evening, April 28, we appeared at a talent show held at the United Jewish Center in Danbury. Our intention in entering the contest, was to help publicize the Mad Hatter Chorus's Annual Show on Saturday, May 12, at Western Connecticut State University.

The show was emceed by two radio show personalities from Radio 95.1 FM in Danbury, and our performance led to an appearance by our quartet on a radio spot to plug the Annual Show. We sang three songs in the "barbershop style" to an appreciative audience and hoped that some would buy tickets to the Mad Hatter show and hire us for a future appearance.

On Saturday May 5, during a singout at the Meadow Ridge nursing home, we sang with Dick Walter, filling in for our bass, Terry Dunkle.

With summer and vacation time approaching, we have a limited appearance schedule leading up to Harmony College Northeast where we intend to participate in the quartet coaching program for the weekend.

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

Ray Wixted Remembered (1937-2012)

From Jack Cramer - Ray was an integral part of the good times and my very fond memories of "barbershopping" in Danbury. He raised a beautiful family with Carolyn. His dedication to St. Gregory's Church, to quartets, his backyard singouts and cookouts at Wixted Place, his hard work and leadership as chorus director earned him a warm spot in my heart. I'll never forget the time when, with Ray at the piano, his daughter, in wonderful voice, sang to him, "You Light Up My Life." Oh man, there are so many Ray Wixted stories. He will be missed!

From Mike Macfarlane - I first met Ray at Harmony College before I moved to Danbury. He coached this freshman barbershopper then, and continued with the Mad Hatters and with Sterling Edition. He was a big, positive force in my musical life for many years - inspirational, down-to-earth, and a wonderful friend and mentor.

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eMails

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He also changed my outlook on everyday things. I still use his expression “leave a leak” rather than “take a leak.”

From Len Carlson - Ray was a special guy and I also have a lot of great memories including singing with him in the Sterling Edition. Back then “Whitey” was the only one of us with white hair, but we did finally catch up.

Strange how certain things stick with you as I too still say “leave” rather than “take,” and I forgot where it came from until Mike’s comment. I now remember Ray once explaining how you certainly wouldn’t want to “take” one.

I copied a few Sterling Edition songs from Mario’s tape when he was last here and they actually sound pretty good – and we did have a lot of fun until Mario deserted us for greener, New Jersey pastures.

I also vividly remember the great job the Lavender Hill Mob did in Lake Placid (my very first convention) and we were ready to attack the judges as we all thought they should have been Number One. Ray will sure be missed.

From Bill McDonald - I was saddened to read about Ray’s death in the latest *Hatter Chatter*. He was a great guy and great director, not to mention a fabulous tenor. I remember finishing fifth at the Lake Placid district contest in 1977 with director Tony Gross. I didn’t know it happened again at the same place in 1981.

I love continuing to receive the *Hatter Chatter* as a former Mad Hatter member. Thanks.



Sterling Edition (L/R) Ray, Mario Merolle, Len Carlson, Mike Macfarlane. They’re wearing the chorus tuxes and shirts as purchased second hand from Dallas Metro in the mid-70s.

From George Schwerdt - Super-sad news about Ray. As you probably recall, I spent a while in a quartet called The Right Blend with him. The last card I had from him, maybe two Christmases ago, said he was not doing well. So the Heavenly Choir gets another one.

From Bob Connolley - We took Fifth Place, Green Ribbon, for the first time in October 1977 in Lake Placid, then again in October 1981, also the Division Championship in March of 1982, all directed by Ray. He was one of the best directors we ever had!



Connecticut Wailers (clockwise from left) Ray, John LoBosca, Bob Leety, Dick Zang. Ray sang lead in this quartet in the late-80s.



Repertoire Notes

When You and I Were Young, Maggie is a famous folk song, popular song and standard. Though Springtown, Tennessee, has a small monument outside an old mill claiming the song was written by a local, George Johnson, in 1820 for his Maggie. Others believe, and most think correctly, that its lyrics were written as a poem by the Canadian school teacher, George Washington Johnson, from Hamilton, Ontario.

Margaret "Maggie" Clark was his pupil. They fell in love and during a period of illness, George walked to the edge of the Niagara escarpment, overlooking what is now downtown Hamilton, and composed the poem. The poem’s general tone is one of melancholy and consolation over lost youth.

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Manion's Musings

By Bill Manion



Congratulations to the Danbury Mad Hatters for, again, winning the small chorus trophy. I'm looking forward to hearing and seeing the video of the competition performance.

Paul Just and I will be competing on April 14 in the Sunshine District chorus competition with the Hernando Harmonizers. The Sunshine District includes the entire State of Florida. There are no divisions in this district so it's winner-take-all for qualifying for International.

We will put 32 men on the risers out of a membership of 37. We don't expect too much in the way of scores but we will have a good time. [Bill later wrote, "We raised our scoring level from a C chorus to a B chorus and received the Most Improved Chorus award for the Sunshine District."]

The majority of our members are experienced barbershoppers, which is a good thing. What isn't so good is the fact that they don't want to exert themselves by working on crafts, or studying notes and words at home. We are truly a retirement chorus!

I'm helping our director out by functioning as an assistant director. I'm pushing crafts as much as I can with a simplified program. It's a five-week cycle versus the thirteen-week program I had in Danbury. The focus is on unit sound. They call me the "church" man since I have them sing a melody with only the word "church." That places the mouth in the proper position for all our vowel sounds. That is not original with me. Steve Jamison taught me that when I went down to Tampa to sing with his chorus.

I miss singing with my Danbury friends. You are a very harmonious group in more ways than one. The friends I made in Danbury will be friends 'til I leave this planet. For example, Len Carlson and Bob Stewart will be attending the district competition to cheer me on. Neither one is active in barbershop any more, but Bob sings lead with a good doo-wop group in the Naples area (for the baris, that's Florida not Italy!). Len keeps threatening to join the Sarasota chorus but no luck yet.

My particular congratulations go to Joe Hudson for really developing the Mad Hatter's musical production. Joe always accepted coaching - in fact he thirsted for coaching. And boy, does it show! Now all the chorus needs is to put 35 to 40 men on the risers!

It's not easy, although we have just signed up two high school boys and yesterday, when Nancy and I were grabbing a quick bite at our local Steak and Shake, our waiter was singing softly as he delivered our food. When asked if he liked to sing he said, "Oh Yeah!" When asked if he liked barbershop, he said, "I love barbershop!" He is a high school senior who will be attending our next rehearsal.

When I paid the bill to the cashier, we mentioned that fact to him but he said he can't sing. When asked if he could carry a tune, he said, "Oh, I can do that, I'm just not a good singer." He is a college freshman. I expect both of them at our next rehearsal.

All each one of us has to do is "knock on the proverbial door." The success rate won't be high but with the good sound you are making there is absolutely no reason you can't reclaim Danbury's membership levels. For those that may not know, at one time we had 99 men on the roster. We could never get to 100 but we sure made a big sound!

Keep up the good work!



The Hernando Harmonizers

Repertoire

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The song was first published in 1864 in a collection of Johnson's poems entitled *Maple Leaves*. George and Maggie were married in 1864, but Maggie's health deteriorated and she died on May 12, 1865. James Austin Butterfield set the poem to music and it became popular all over the world.

George Washington Johnson died in 1917. The schoolhouse where the two lovers met still stands on the escarpment above Hamilton, and a plaque bearing the name of the song has been erected in front of the old building.

In 2005, George Washington Johnson was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame.





The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

Here it is the last few days of the month of May. It has been one of our busiest months of the year. During this month we had our Annual Show and several chorus sing outs and several more quartet performances.

Many people have expressed to me how they saw a marked improvement of the chorus's singing and presentation during the Annual Show. One person commented they felt that the flow and timing of the show was exceptional. The high point of the show, for me, was when we joined The Big Apple Chorus for the final number. I could not help but wish that our chapter had that many men on the risers at all times.

I want to thank each member who sold advertisements, placed posters in businesses, sent emails and invited friends to the show. Thanks to those who placed advertisements in the newspapers and on TV, sang on the radio and placed notices on the web, all in an effort to promote the show.

The music committee has chosen several new songs for the chapter to learn. The songs have been posted on Groupanizer. I encourage each member to print the song sheets and download the music and begin learning the music. We should come to practice each Tuesday night being prepared to refine songs, not learn them.

On Saturday, June 9th, we have been invited to sing for the Danbury Westerners vintage baseball game. We sang for them a couple of years ago. Fred is our point person for this event. We will sing the National Anthem, "God Bless America" and other related songs. Please mark this date on your calendar and "Come out to the ball game."

We will begin our monthly coaching sessions with Joe Hunter this month. Joe will be with us one Tuesday each month. The coaching sessions will be for all members of the chorus and will focus on the singing and presentation of the songs in our repertoire.

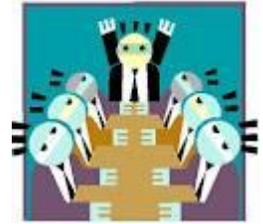
I know that vacation season is upon us which will result in many of us being away and missing practices. Please strive to make as many practices as possible. Missing multiple practices will result in you being behind the learning curve.

Congratulations to Loco Fedora for being selected to sing in the District quartet competition in October. They will be working hard making preparations for this competition. Take every opportunity to encourage them and plan on going up for the Friday evening of the competition to support them.

Harmony College will be in August again this year. Many of our members go up to Worcester each year and I encourage more to attend. While there you will get to attend different classes, learn more about our craft, get to sing with others, learn new songs and experience a tremendous Saturday night show.

May Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Submitted then supermitted then just mitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary



Meeting called to order by Danny "He Who Must Be Obeyed" Anderson on May 1, 2012, at 6:06 pm at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT amended by the following correction: "raffle" is corrected to "door prize." Afterward nobody seemed to care about how much toil went into making the minutes presentable. But I digress. Somehow the minutes were received on a motion by Joseph Hudson, seconded by Wynn Wilcox.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our cash flow remains stable. We are maintaining our low-interest CD's for the moment until we decide if we can develop a relationship with a bank willing to provide a grant for our educational and charitable projects. The report was received on a motion by Joseph Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Terry Dunkle urged each member to have a personal stake in membership. He also asked that we update the website.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Online and newspaper ads for our show are up. Ads are also up at the Mall, the Coffee News, and the radio stations. Al Paparesta is going to the retirement homes. Loco Fedora is singing on the air on WKCI (I-95). Terry is making inserts for programs. Large posters are being printed. We have no lawn signs this year because the quote we received was too high for our budget. We are simultaneously working on a membership drive, and copy for that campaign is ready. Rare Occasion sang at the United Jewish Center and passed out nearly 100 posters.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: The Committee is planning to ask Joe Hunter to coach us in June. Our focus is to improve the performance of the chorus in all its engagements, not just in contests. We expect all members to attend these sessions so choreography and interpretation can be learned for singouts and shows.

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Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

"When I told my father my ambition was to drive an army tank he said, 'I won't stand in your way.'"

Board Meeting

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OLD BUSINESS: The membership needs to know that what we learn for contest is how we will sing those songs after the contest. The Christmas show will be on December 1st. Admission by donation.

Terry Dunkle has inserted an ad in our show book requesting donations for the Memorial Fund.

NEW BUSINESS: People's United Bank showcases companies that are customers. They distribute cards and hand bills once a week. Union Savings Bank makes grants to local arts organizations. We need to find a bank that has an interest in promoting our good works.

Robert Golenbock suggested sponsoring an a cappella festival and inviting groups all over the area. The Society sponsors Harmony Festival Workshops and has a workbook outlining all the details. This would be a way of promoting barbershop singing to young people and possibly increasing membership, but would likely be an expensive proposition to undertake. More discussion is necessary.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Zlamany, Baruch Spinoza.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Art Roberts, Dick Walter, Danny Anderson, Joseph Hudson, Robert Golenbock, Terry Dunkle, Wynn Wilcox, Dickson DeMarche, Jimmy Hopper, Andy Bayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm. Next meeting June 5th.



Music Committee Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Joe Hudson

Music team meeting, April 24, 2012. Called to order at 6:47 pm.

The librarian position is unfilled since Lyle LaPlante left. Recommendations were made to approach David Noone, Nick Godano, and Peter Daubner. The librarian is a member of the music committee. Duties include:

- Keeping track of paper copies of music (label copies for members before distributing).
- Providing CDs for members who cannot download from Groupanizer.
- Maintaining guest books.

Chorus coaching was discussed. It was agreed that Joe Hunter should be invited to a Tuesday rehearsal in June. No action was taken on scheduling an all-day, Saturday session.

Members singing standing in the back should be seated within their section. Sit in sections to work on section unity. Sections will be mixed on risers.

Show songs:

- "If I Loved You" will be sung by a quartet during the annual show.
- "There Is Nothing Like A Dame" will be moved to the first half.

Keys to a Successful Quartet Performance

By Brian Philbin

Brian Philbin is bass of Metropolis, former bass section leader of the Masters of Harmony and current commentator/columnist for youBarbershop.com.

The performance is the product of everything we do in barbershop. If we didn't perform, who would hear our music? How would we otherwise present the gift of our talents? Certainly we would not presume to perform only amongst ourselves.

This is an art form to be shared in a very public fashion. That being said, it is important to note that every time you sing, whether the audience is 20 or 20,000, you are performing. Keep in mind what "performance" means to you and your quartet at all times. Appearing at a banquet is a performance. Singing on a chapter show is a performance. Competing at a barbershop convention is a performance.

Be Prepared

Preparation is the foremost key to every performance. What occurs in rehearsal will reflect directly on what occurs in the performance. Concentration on the elements most important to your quartet will allow you to demonstrate those elements most favorably. If you have rehearsed well, you can perform well. Your quartet will feel more at home performing familiar patterns and executing a well thought out plan.

Allow Sufficient Warm-Up Time

The warm-up time allowed at the performance venue is a key factor which may affect how well you perform. Going on "cold" is rarely a good idea unless everyone in the quartet is accustomed to it and favors it over taking preparation time just before the performance. Warming up and going over the plan will always allow the quartet to feel more confident of the patterns involved.

Remove the Distractions

Distractions come in many forms and the smallest distractions can, at times, cause the greatest hindrance in a performance.

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Keys

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Begin with the most obvious distractions and work your way down the list. For instance, have everything you need when you arrive at the venue. The quartet should have a standardized list of everything to bring to each performance, as well as a customized list for each individual (Joe brings the pitch pipe, Jeff brings the make-up kit, etc.).

Be Informed

Also important is knowing the what, where, when and how of each performance and venue. The better informed your quartet is about the details, the more energy you can assert toward your performance, rather than being preoccupied by the small stuff. Making this information available in written form to each member will also be helpful in removing it as an obstacle.

Communicate Openly

There are other small obstacles, but they are mostly unique to each quartet. The thought that Joe always blows the pitch pipe too long or too late is an aspect of the performance. The thought that Jeff always forgets the make-up kit is also an aspect of detail preparation.

In some cases, it takes open, honest communication to work out these details. In others, it is simply a matter of learning to live with each other's personality traits and planning around them. (You might want to give the make-up kit job to someone other than Jeff, for instance.)

Take Responsibility

Once you have done your jobs and removed those outward obstacles, there are still others to conquer. There remain obstacles within the performance itself to overcome. Some are of an individual nature, while others are a group responsibility. For example, choosing the right music and pacing the performance are group responsibilities. Staying focused and mentally prepared are individual responsibilities.

Then again, overcoming personal distractions is the individual's responsibility. Getting assistance from quartet members is a group responsibility. Sometimes the thing that helps most is allowing each other the time and space to do what is needed to surmount those preoccupations and distractions.

Eliminate Performance Errors

Once on stage, the performers must concentrate their energies in a united fashion in order to give a group performance that is greater than the sum of its parts. This requires a commitment from each member to focus on his own job while supporting the other members in their jobs.

Again, performance errors and other unexpected occurrences will rear their ugly heads. It is important to focus on the whole performance and what's ahead, rather than on a foible that you can't correct. Heck, even if it happened two seconds ago, it's in the past and without the "wayback machine" you might as well forget it for the time being.

Do what you can about the remainder of the performance. Once the performance is over, you can always review your mistakes and find ways to avoid them. Decide if they were simply due to circumstances unique to the appearance and write them off as performance errors.

Stay Motivated

Motivation should always be strong for each performance. When performing, many and varied opportunities present themselves and the idea is to "make your mark" in the minds of that audience. Your performance — whether based in comedy, variety, ballads, etc. — should set you apart from other groups the audience may have experienced.

Know Your Audience

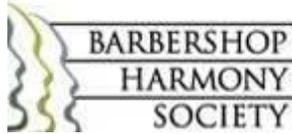
A contest performance, likely your shortest type of performance, requires only two songs but just as much preparation and concentration as a show performance. The contest will likely bring together the most geographically-varied group of barbershoppers to see you perform.

A show performance, on the other hand, is longer and requires more stamina. It requires professionalism at all times to ensure a well-executed plan, as this is likely the highest paying audience you will encounter. It's important to give them their money's worth. Show audiences comprise both barbershop and non-barbershop members, and the opportunity to make a good first impression is always present.

Likewise, performing at a banquet is an opportunity to present barbershop to a new audience and so it requires the same dedication as a barbershop show. You want people to truly appreciate this form of entertainment, and you are the ambassadors of barbershop at those functions

Each of these performances provides a unique cross section of a different community as well as opportunities yet untapped. You never know who will be in any given audience — an old friend, a future employer of your quartet, or even the author of a song you are performing. That and the opportunity to showcase your talent at every performance should provide the quartet with great motivation.

Finally, it is important to note that nothing will help you create a pinnacle performance better than experience. Repeated performances are yet additional rehearsals to learn from and build upon. Each time you combine motivation, preparation, removal of distractions, and all the other ways suggested here, you have the opportunity to improve and better understand what works best for you. That leads to the greatest opportunity of all...the chance to create a championship performance.



Society and District Notes



8th Annual Baseball Barbershop BBQ

Though summer isn't officially here just yet, it sure feels like it today. This is your reminder about the 8th Annual Baseball Barbershop BBQ. Last year we had 200 people for the BBQ and 85 men on the field to sing the National Anthem in front of over 8000 people. Here are the details for this year.

- Date: Saturday, July 28th, 2012
- Time: 3-5pm, BBQ
- 5pm: - families may enter the stadium to find seats (general admission)
- 5pm: - The men will rehearse the National Anthem (Grandfathers, Fathers, Sons, Grandsons)
- 6pm: - The men will go on the field to sing the National anthem
- Game starts: 6:05pm
- Location: McCoy Stadium, 1 Columbus Ave, Pawtucket, RI.
- Pawtucket Red Sox VS Scranton Wilkes-Barre Yankees (Red Sox VS Yankees farm teams).
- Cost: Adults \$15 Children 12 & under \$10

Please wear a red or blue shirt. The Ocean State Chorus (host chapter) will be wearing white shirts.

This event is sponsored by the Ocean State Chorus, Lincoln, RI, Chapter. We have decided to donate proceeds from this event to the Harmony Explosion Camp that will take place in August at Worcester State College. If you can not make this event, please consider making a donation to the HX Camp. It is certainly a good cause.

Remember this is a fundraiser! The purpose of having the men sing the National Anthem is to showcase the Barbershop Harmony Society and to let people know that we are still around and dedicated to preserving this great American art form called barbershop harmony. We encourage males of any age to join us as long you know the standard Barbershop Harmony Society arrangement of the National Anthem.

In the event of rain, the BBQ will be held on Sunday, July 29th. The BBQ would take place at 11am and the baseball game starts at 1:05pm.

If you are interested in attending this event, please mail your check by June 28th, made payable to the Ocean State Chorus to:

Ocean State Chorus
179 Ontario Street
Providence, RI 02907

Please provide an email address with your payment so I can confirm that I received your ticket order.

Your name will be on a list at the check in table the day of the event. when you arrive check in and everyone will be given a name badge and baseball ticket. We will not be able to sell tickets the day of the event as we will need to know in advance the number attending for the food count.

Steve Isherwood
OceanStateChorus@aol.com
401-578-2260

Please Support Harmony Explosion Camp

One of the greatest things we do as a society is to bring wonderful music to our young people. Watching a room full of students light up at the sound of ringing chords sung by a terrific quartet is one of the great joys of barbershopping, surpassed only by the joy of hearing those same students ringing chords themselves.

In the past, we have offered our Harmony Explosion Camp to area students and their teachers completely free of charge – our membership has subsidized full scholarships for every single attendee, and with great results.

We've seen HX campers (some from economically strapped school districts with struggling music programs) return to their home schools to start up barbershop quartets. We've seen former HX campers enter the Collegiate Quartet contest, and make it to district and even international stages.

Last year, we offered the fully coeducational over-night HX camp program, and the phrase "best ever" was heard multiple times throughout the weekend and turned up in writing on the evaluation surveys. The many teachers in attendance were particularly impressed. For several, this was their first significant exposure to barbershop harmony, and they're excited to be bringing our art form back into their classrooms.

A teacher interested in barbershop translates into students interested in barbershop – we're helping to grow our bases of both future performers and future audience members, both vital to the continued growth of the Society and preservation of our art.

However, an expanding program that welcomes more students and teachers, coupled with rising costs, brings rising expenses.

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More Notes

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These, combined with a shrinking number of donors in recent years means that we are in dire need of financial support if this program is to continue to flourish.

Last year, many NED chapters made direct financial contributions to the camp. Frankly, we would like to have 100% of chapters participate in some way to help us with this important project. Individual members and quartets who value the sharing of our hobby with kids and their teachers can help too.

In the past, we've suggested that chapters sponsor individual students at the cost of \$185 per student. There are a few problems with this model of support: First, the true cost is closer to \$300 per student once all facilities usage fees, music, etc. are factored in. Second, not every school district has an affiliation with a local chapter. Some of the neediest school districts are in areas that have virtually no barbershop chapters.

Still another issue is that not all chapters are created equal – some are more active, or have more members, and are financially able to make large donations. Maybe, then, we shouldn't focus on per-chapter donation goals, but rather on individual targets.

What will it take to make the camp successful? How does fifty cents a week sound? If every registered member of the NED donated fifty cents a week (try getting a cup of coffee for that much these days!), or \$26 for the year, it would cover the bulk of expenses for the camp. We could continue to offer the same excellent barbershop experience to students and teachers and not risk losing them to other summer music camps. Wouldn't that be great, to give the gift of barbershop music to hundreds of our youth? Of course, larger donations are more than welcome!

The tuition for the camp will be \$300 per student. Chapters can choose to send \$300 per student, or send a general amount to help fund the entire camp. Of course, the more money we can raise this year, the lower that tuition rate will be in the future. This is why we are encouraging all supporters of barbershop music, including BHS, SAI, and HI members, and all of our family and friends to act now. We can make a huge impact if we make a strong and immediate commitment to our future.

We are asking for your support in the next four weeks in the forms of donations and pledges. The amount raised/pledged will determine the possible future of the camp's existence. Please note that all pledges must be paid by July 1, 2012.

Donations and pledges may be made by chapters, quartets or individuals. Checks should be made payable to "Northeastern District" and should be sent to our district treasurer:

Peter Sajko, Matthew Street #10, Concord, NH 03301.

Please put "HX 2012" in the memo line.

Be creative! Two years ago year a chapter partnered with a local rock band and an old time string band and gave an outdoor concert at a VFW post that raised over \$750 for the camp!

Talk to your local schools and see if they'd like to get in on the fundraising effort, especially if they're sending kids to camp.

Ask family, friends and others in the community if they will support music education with a small donation.

Please consider asking/appointing someone to spearhead the fundraising effort for your chapter.

Together, we can continue to bring our music to tomorrow's generation, and help ensure a bright future for barbershop harmony. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

Steve Rogers, HX Camp Coordinator

Memorial Day

As our Canadian brethren recover from their return to work after a Victoria Day Weekend and we in The States prepare to welcome summer with our Memorial Day, I'd like to take a moment and thank everyone for the work that they are doing in the name of Barbershop Harmony.

What is important about these holidays is the opportunity to breathe and gather perspective. The weekend will be fun, and we will eat, drink, and probably sing way too much, but there will be constant reminders to pause and reflect on the reason for the day. That men, women, and children, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers died in the name of freedom. The freedom that we bask in today.

As I type this and as you read it, someone is putting their life in harm's way, so that we don't have to.

Meanwhile, we worry about whether or not our chorus or quartet will get a medal, that the price of conventions are too high, that the guy standing next to me keeps missing that note, or going flat. We complain that people are late to our meetings, we complain that there aren't enough people, we complain that the director is doing all the wrong things, we complain that we don't get enough gigs, we complain that when we do get a gig its for the wrong amount of money, we complain that the sound equipment is bad, we complain that its too hot to sing, its too cold to sing, its too late to sing, and all the others that you hear over and over.

Perspective; people, real people; many of them that loved to sing, died and are dying for our freedoms. So, what was that you were complaining about?

Continued on the next page

Even More Notes

Continued from the previous page

To all that have been touched by such a loss personally. We send our gratitude and our love. To those that have never felt that pain, please join me in giving thanks as often as you can, this weekend and always.

“I have never been able to think of the day as one of mourning; I have never quite been able to feel that half-masted flags were appropriate on Decoration Day. I have rather felt that the flag should be at the peak, because those whose dying we commemorate rejoiced in seeing it where their valor placed it. We honor them in a joyous, thankful, triumphant commemoration of what they did.” ~Benjamin Harrison.

In that spirit, I wish you and yours a Happy Memorial Day Weekend.

Michael Klein
Barbershop Harmony Society
Northeastern District, President

Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention



Portland Contest Venue
Contests will be held in the beautiful Rose Garden Arena



Headquarters Hotel will be the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Registration Includes admission to all contest sessions.

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

Register by phone: 800-595-4849

District Qualifying Choruses and Quartets

The preliminary draw for singing order will take place the first weekend of June.

Chorus City	State/ Province	Division	Score
Portland	ME	G&P	72.3
Manchester	CT	YAN	70.6
Fall River	MA	PAT	69.9
Burlington	VT	MTN	69.4
Providence	RI	PAT	68.2
Lowell	MA	PAT	67.8
Saratoga Springs	NY	MTN	65.0
Nashua	NH	G&P	64.8
Schenectady	NY	MTN	64.1
Danbury	CT	YAN	63.5
Greater Montreal	QC	MTN	63.1
South Shore	QC	MTN	63.0
Hartford	CT	YAN	62.8
Central	CT	YAN	62.2
Concord	NH	G&P	61.4
Hanover	NH	G&P	60.9
Poughkeepsie	NY	YAN	60.9
St. John's	Nfld	SUN	59.5
Beverly	MA	PAT	58.3

* Senior quartet

Quartet Name	Division	Score
Downtown Crossing	PAT	74.9
On Air	G&P	73.1
Breakaway	G&P	71.2
Sonic Fource	PAT	69.4
Foggy Bottom Boy	SUN	69.2
Testostertones	PAT	69.1
Bullseye	MTN	68.9
Back Bay Four	G&P	68.7
Good Time Sound	G&P	68.6
Timely Gents	YAN	67.6
Port City Sound*	G&P	67.4
Trade Secret*	PAT	66.8
Quartet.com Plus 10	PAT	66.4
Inside Track	G&P	66.3
Sound Accord	MTN	66.0
Primrose Lane*	MTN	65.8
Crosswind	SUN	65.5
New Perspective	G&P	65.3
Boston Royale	PAT	64.8
GS4	PAT	64.4
4five9	G&P	64.3
Footlighters *	YAN	64.0
Stolen Moments	YAN	64.0
Final Call	SUN	63.5
Super 8	PAT	63.2
Junction One-Three-Five	G&P	62.8
New Dimension	SUN	62.5
Loco Fedora	YAN	62.4
Recycled Parts *	MTN	61.4

Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

A barbershop baritone goes into a nice restaurant bar wearing a shirt open at the collar and is met by a bouncer who tells him he must wear a necktie to gain admission. So the baritone goes out to his car and he looks around for a necktie and discovers he doesn't have one. He does see a set of jumper cables in his trunk. In desperation, he ties the cables around his neck, manages to fashion a fairly acceptable looking knot and lets the ends dangle free. He goes back to the restaurant and the bouncer carefully looks him over for a few minutes and then says, "Well, OK, I guess you can come in -- just don't start anything."

. . .

There was a barbershop baritone who had worked all of his life and had saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I wanna take my money to the afterlife." So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all the money in the casket with him.

Well, one day he died. He was stretched out in the casket, the wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, "Wait just a minute!" she had a shoe box with her, she came over with the box and placed it in the casket.

Then the undertakers locked the casket down and rolled it away. Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket."

The baritone's wife said, "Yes, I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every cent of his money in the casket with him?"

"I sure did, " said the wife. "I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a check."

. . .

A barbershop baritone walks into a bar with a piece of tarmac under his arm. He says to the bartender, "One for me and one for the road."

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
River Of No Return
Somewhere Out There
Over The Rainbow
Please, Mr. Columbus
Shenandoah
Ten Feet Off The Ground
Thanks For The Memory
There Is Nothing Like A Dame
On The Sunny Side Of The Street

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
When You And I Were
Young, Maggie

In Progress/Upcoming

From The First Hello
If The Phone Don't Ring, You'll Know
It's Me
How Deep Is The Ocean
My Honey's Lovin' Arms
They Say It's Wonderful
I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim's
Gettin' Better



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
Public Relations VP:	Wynn Wilcox
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:	Peter Daubner
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith
Package Show Chairman:	Dick Walter
Chorus Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

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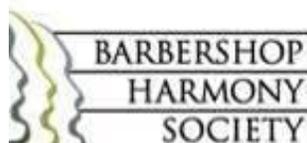
Proofreader: Miss Taralily

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

June Milestones

Birthdays:

6 - Annellen Gleissner
8 - Sharon McKee
9 - Steve Horhota
9 - Dick Zang
10 - Harriet Feinberg
15 - Stephanie Terry
20 - John Cheeseman



Wedding Anniversaries:

28 - Robert and Jane Golenbock
29 - Bob and Sophie (Sam) Connolley

Mark Your Calendars

June 9: Chapter Singout. Danbury Westerners Vintage Baseball Game, Roger's Park, Danbury. Eat and warm-up 12 Noon. Sing 1:00 PM (and during the 7th inning stretch).

October 20: District Contest. Portland, Maine. Details to be announced.

December 1: Danbury Mad Hatter Holiday Concert. Details to be announced.

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!

What O.C. Cash forgot to tell us

There is no such thing as being a little flat.

The older you get, the better your voice used to be.

Chorus sadist; the guy who feels obligated to blow the pitchpipe at the end of the song.

There is nothing wrong with being seen by the Chorus Director while looking at your watch...try to avoid his seeing you shaking it.

Wear white pants to all chorus rehearsals. No one will ever ask you to help with the risers.