



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 20 Number 7

www.madhatterchorus.org

October 2013

Mad Hatters Compete in Portland

By John Bradley

Portland, ME – A spirited band of 18 made the long drive to moose country to compete at the 2013 Northeastern District Fall Convention in Westbrook, Maine, on Saturday, October 19th. Singing “I Don’t Know Why (I Just Do)” and “Kentucky Babe,” the chorus scored a combined 752 points to finish ninth overall.

Vocal Revolution from Concord, MA, won the chorus contest with a 916 score and qualified to represent the Northeastern District at the International Chorus Contest next July in Las Vegas. Beverly, MA, was the Northeastern District’s Most Improved Chorus.

SUREFIRE!, singing “What’ll I Do” and “I’ve Been Working On the Railroad” during Friday’s semi-finals, and “Over the Rainbow” and “Little Patch of Heaven,” at Saturday night’s finals, finished sixth in the quartet finals. Mad Hatter music director, Joe Hudson, is the quartet’s tenor. Downtown Crossing won the District Quartet Championship and Port City Sound is the District Seniors Champion.

“The chorus certainly improved its score from the spring division contest,” said Joe Hudson. “I’m pleased with our performance and now it’s on to our Christmas show on December 7th.”

Bob Bradley, former Mad Hatter president and lead, said from backstage, where he assists the district contest team, “You guys sounded the best I’ve heard in a long time. Good job.”

Chorus Performs in Mahopac

By John Bradley

Mahopac, NY. The Danbury Mad Hatter barbershoppers travelled over hill and dale, across the state line, through forest and field, circumventing bridge replacement on eastbound I-84 to headline the BMM Concert Series at Mahopac’s public library on September 22.

Sporting new black ties (in an attempt to divert attention from the teal shirts), the chorus entertained a lively and enthusiastic full house, many of whom sang along with the chorus.



*The Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus opens its set at the 2013 Fall Northeast District Convention in Portland, ME.
Photo by Steve Salamin.*

Library

Continued from previous page

Joining in the performance were three chorus quartets, Blue Moon, Traveling Men and Real Chemistry. Also appearing was Desperate Measures, a high school quartet from Dutchess County, NY, who arrived just as the performance was starting, having given music director, Joe Hudson, last minute jitters on how to fill the time – almost having to resort to desperate measures himself.

But time wasn't a problem during the almost 90-minute performance on the balmy Sunday afternoon. In fact, the audience seemed to want a little more.

"That was certainly a lot of fun," said tenor, Auggie D'Aureli, in the parking lot after the show. "Much more entertaining than watching the New York Giants play."



*SUREFIRE! Performing during the Quartet Finals.
Photo by Steve Salamin.*



*The audience asks for more at the Mahopac Library.
Photo by Terry Dunkle*

Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Real Chemistry – by John Bradley

A USO show during World War II was the theme of Arts on the Lake's annual fund raiser at the Sedgwood Club in Kent, NY, on September 28. And in the spirit of the evening, Real Chemistry donned period military shirts and skirts, wings and combat boots, and appeared as the Andrews Sisters, singing an a cappella version of the period hit, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B."

It wasn't the most ridiculous thing we've done," said bass, Dick Walter, "but it will be a tough one to top."

Thanks to tenor, Auggie D'Aurelli, Real Chemistry was able to come up with an arrangement that featured the lead, tenor and baritone singing harmony and Dick Walter providing a solid bass line.

Continued on the next page



Anthony Hudson takes over directing duties from daddy at the Mahopac Library. Photo by Terry Dunkle



Desperate Measures from Arlington High School in LaGrangeville, NY. Photo by Terry Dunkle.

Quartet

Continued from previous page

Basically, it was a parody of the three sisters singing with brother Dick on bass,” said Auggie.

The rest of the evening was filled with wine, dinner and dancing, along with additional performances by singer Kati Mac and Tim Ouimette and the Swing Band.

Real Chemistry also sang at a birthday brunch at Ramiro’s 954 Restaurant in Mahopac, NY, on October 13. The quartet performed “Heart of My Heart,” “Coney Island Baby,” “As Time Goes By” and, of course, “Happy Birthday” to 90-year young Marvin.

Before singing “Coney Island Baby” we asked Marvin if he was, by any chance, from Brooklyn. He replied, “No, I’m a Jersey Boy, but I could find Brooklyn if I had to.”

As we were walking back to Bob Bradley’s Real Chemistrymobile, tenor Jim Hopper, filling in for Auggie, said, “You know, that was more fun than watching the New York Giants play today.”

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

How can I get rid of a sore throat with a hoarse voice in two days or by the third morning? I have to sing “Good Girl” by Carrie Underwood which is already a tough song without the hoarse voice. I sing on Friday. Please help me - I’m begging!!!!!!!

Heather from Hartford.

Heather, somehow I don’t think you are a barbershopper. But, I asked a bunch of my friends and singing colleagues how they would deal with such a problem. Here are some of the replies. If our readers have any other remedies, please send them in.

Eat cough drops and gargle salt water. Drink hot mint tea with honey. Steaming up your bathroom by turning on hot water and keeping the door closed will also help with the sore throat (just make sure you are in the bathroom with all the steam).

To get rid of a sore throat you should go for a salt water gargle. A hoarse voice is well treated with rest and taking in a

lot of water. You should seek medical attention to get rid of the condition completely.

Vinegar and honey helps a sore throat and also helps a cough. One ounce of each in a cup of hot water, like drinking a cup of coffee. You can drink it as often as you want to and it tastes pretty good.



The survey says... Photo by Terry Dunkle.



Real Chemistry doing its Sunday afternoon in Mahopac song, “Coney Island Baby.” Photo by Terry Dunkle.



Traveling Men perform at the Mahopac Library. Photo by Terry Dunkle



The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

I would like to tip my hat to the Portland chapter for hosting the fall contest. As a participant and observer, it appeared that the event went flawlessly.

Of course, our Bob and Viki Bradley were running the show backstage and they did a great job keeping the contest moving.

The Mad Hatters performed well, increasing our overall score by 2.7 points over the Division contest. The judges, in the post-contest coaching session, provided good suggestions for the chorus members and for Joe. At this writing, our Music Committee is discussing which songs we will sing at the March contest in Burlington, VT.

A salute to Andy Bayer, who has taken on the Annual Show chairmanship. He and the show committee are scheduling monthly meetings and things are already in motion. Under his leadership, the chapter is way ahead in the preparations and planning of the show. Several subcommittees have been established with specific task, goals and dates for reporting their progress.

Andy would like to have each member participate on at least one subcommittee. If you have not volunteered, or have not been appointed to a subcommittee, see Andy.

Before the annual show, the chapter has other events on its calendar. On December 7th, we will hold our second annual Christmas concert. The music committee is encouraging the membership to memorize several songs, which will allow for better visual contact with the audience and with Joe as he directs. Music books will be allowed as some have indicated that they cannot memorize all the songs.

All the sheet music and voice parts are on Groupanizer for downloading. Most of the songs are repeats from past years, so many of us should know the songs by heart already.

The following Saturday, December 14th, we will host the very first joint Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic District mixed quartet competition. Quartets from both districts will be in competition. The event will be held at the Church of Christ, from 1:00 pm through 4:00 pm. I encourage your attendance at this inaugural event.

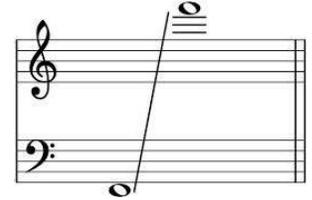
The Chapter has again been invited to sing at First Night Danbury. We will be in the same venue as last year. This event has been a good recruiting activity for members and for other singing engagements. We will use this appearance to market Singing Valentines and our Annual Show, as well as provide the audience with a memorable performance. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

Singing Valentines is another great event this chapter engages in. I welcome all ideas from the membership as to how we might sell more valentines. We delivered around 50 last year, but would like to have 75 plus this year. That being said, we will need to have more quartets participating. Start now to form a quartet - the joy you bring to the recipients is priceless. Start thinking now of people you would like to deliver a valentine to.

It is great to be a part of this chapter. I look forward to being with you each week. I encourage your regular attendance – it's the only way we can improve and grow as a musical unit.

You can Eliminate That Break

Reprint from
www.barbershop.org



One of the most challenging hurdles for all singers is how to overcome one's break or passaggio. Frustrating as it might be, we all have one. Here are some tips that just might make a difference.

When you sing, open your mouth more for the higher notes, but don't stretch it to the limit. Opening your mouth too wide will cause tension in the jaw and tighten the throat, cutting off forward placement. Feeling an inner-smile in your sound and trying not to make it so much an outer facial expression will help you as well. This inner-smile feeling, like when biting an apple, will activate the proper placement and quality of your sound.

Use a mirror to be certain that your tongue is relaxed and the tip is touching your lower gum ridge. When you pull your tongue backward, it destroys the forward placement and quality of your sound. The tongue placement can also make a difference in how you manage your passaggio.

Keep your diaphragmatic support as steady and firm on a descending scale or melodic line as you do when you're singing an ascending scale or a melody. If there is an abrupt change into your chest voice, this could be due to a sudden tightening or grabbing of the throat muscles. This is often the result of trying to move into your chest voice too early.

Conversely, if you are singing an ascending line, you may experience an abrupt change into your head voice. This is caused by singing too loud and/or bringing your chest voice too high as you attempt the transition into your head voice. You must always prepare at least two or three notes before you make the transition into your head or chest voices.

The important thing is to be aware of what to do and then practice those things that can help you manage your break so your tone always has a smooth quality sound throughout your entire tessitura/range. Remember to keep warm air under your tone and an open throat at all times when you sing.



October Board of Directors Meeting

*Respectfully submitted by Dr.
Robert Golenbock in
Mongolian*

Meeting called to order by Danny “Grand High Exalted Mystic Ruler” Anderson at 6:10 pm on October 1, 2013, at the Church of Christ in Danbury.

SECRETARY’S REPORT was submitted through various electronic media and received on a motion by Al Paparesta, seconded by Andy Bayer.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The extra expenses of going to District contest and paying our fees for Groupanizer and the new website have reduced our treasury. We are looking forward to success with our long-term plans for Valentine’s Day and our Annual Show as well as our First Night singout, which this year will be held on New Year’s Eve. The report was received on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Robert Golenbock.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Keith Korb has filled out an application. A motion to accept his application pending testing has been approved on a motion by Andy Bayer, seconded by Joe Hudson. Incidentally, we have no time limit for approval of an application. We encourage those who are not yet ready to sing with our chorus to work with our section leaders and practice with learning tracks at home.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Al Paparesta will have his campaigns for the Christmas show and Valentine’s Day ready after the District contest. He also mentioned the Bridal Expo in January, but the fee to attend is too high for our purposes. Briefly, only quartets with a strong will to perform regularly would have any success attending the Expo, and the chorus would not likely pick up any new members among the largely female attendees.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: We have been working on the Holiday Show. We are hoping the chorus will memorize the holiday music. We will have a quartet sing a patriotic song in remembrance of Pearl Harbor since the show is on December 7.

OLD BUSINESS: The Secretary cast a vote for the new slate of officers.

Annual Show report: The Committee reviewed six items. We are putting an ad in the District convention brochure to “save the date.” We have reserved Western Connecticut State College’s White Hall for May 1. We reviewed committee signups. The ticket prices will be \$20 and \$18. A motion by Andy Bayer, seconded by Dickson DeMarche, that the processing fee be taken out of our ticket price was passed with one opposing vote. A motion by Andy Bayer, seconded by Joe Hudson, to approve the use of WestConn’s White Hall pending the official contract was approved. A motion to

approve the total budget expenditure given the expected income was approved on a motion by Joe Hudson, seconded by Dickson DeMarche. The new web page was almost ready to go live as of the date of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Some of our members are planning to go to Leadership Academy on January 10th and 11th. One of our members has been offered the honor off being Sing Valentine Chairman. We plan to give him back his car keys after he says yes.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Daryl Bornstein, Tiny Tim.

OFFICERS PRESENT: D. Anderson, A. Bayer, A. Paparesta, W. Wilcox, J. Hopper, D. DeMarche, A. Roberts, R. Golenbock, J. Hudson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting November 5th.

Mad Hatters Attend Harmony Brigade



Dr. Robert Golenbock at the New England Harmony Brigade.

Dr Robert Golenbock and Wynn Wilcox attended the New England harmony brigade on September 20-22 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Marlborough, MA.

Part of Harmony Brigade is breaking up into randomly designated quartets and competing against each other singing one of the 12 Brigade songs. The songs are also randomly assigned. Each quartet gets an hour to develop a coherent and polished performance. The top ten then are given a second randomly chosen song to sing without any rehearsal whatsoever. Wynn's quartet won second prize.

Baritone Deep Thought Of The Month

I once knew a guy who ate fish and chips every day for a year. His stomach took a battering.

How to Sing Barbershop Like a Pro

By Amar Batbayar
Director of the Ulan Bator Tribesmen Chorus

Өнөөдөр сургалтын хөтөлбөрийг боловсруулахдаа ажлын байран дээр ямар мэдлэг, чадвар шаардлагатай байна Одоо байгаа: Мэдээллийн Технологи: Програм хангамж, Компьютерийн шинжлэх ухаан, Компьютерийн сүлжээний удирдлага, Олон улсын эдийн засаг, Бизнесийн удирдлага, Аялал Жуулчлалын. Монгол нь угтаа Гадаад Монгол гэсэн нэрээр Хятад улсын нэг бүрэлдэхүүн байв. Цагаан хаант Оросын дэмжлэгээр, 2013 онд өөртөө засахаа зарлаж.

өнөөдөр ажил олгогч нарын нийтлэг шаардлага юу байна вэ? Тэдний хувьд тэртээ тэргүй технологи байнга шинэчлэгдэж байгаа өнөө үед төгсөгчдийн техник талын чадвар нь шууд ажиллах хэмжээнд хүрэхгүй байж болохыг хүлээн зөвшөөрч.

чадварлаг мэргэжилтнийг бэлтгэхэд боловсруулсан хөтөлбөр хангалттай байна уу, үгүй юү гэдгийг .

манайд дэндүү сул байх шиг. Мэдээж бүхэлд нь хавтгайруулан шүүмжилж болохгүй ч ерөнхий өнгө нь сул төвшинд байгаагийн төгсөгчдөөсөө болон ажил олгогч нараас судалгаа авах замаар хянаж хөтөлбөрөө шинэчилдэг болжээ. Тэгвэл, техник чадварыг ажлын байран дээр дадлагажуулах боломжтой гэж үзэж байна.



Society and District Notes



Mixed Harmony Festival

To all mixed harmony quartets in the general area of the Northeastern District. The Northeastern District and the Mid-Atlantic District are jointly sponsoring the first annual mixed harmony festival for mixed quartets in the northeastern part of the country (including Canada).

The festival encourages mixed quartets (any configuration: MMMF, MFMF, MFFF) whether you are a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Harmony, Inc., Sweet Adelines, International (or not) to participate.

This is a competition and will be scored under Barbershop Harmony Society contest rules using BHS and Harmony, inc. certified judges.

More information is available on the Northeastern District website (nedistrict.org) including registration forms which are due by November 30, 2013. Further information and details will be forthcoming.

Харин бусад чухал чадварууд болсон хариуцлага.

эзэмшүүлэхийг зорьдог. Либерал боловсролын сургалт нь мэдлэгийг хуримтлуулах талаас нь бус, мэдлэгийг оюун ухаандаа боловсруулах чадвар талаас нь анхаарч олон салбарын ухаанаар тэрхүү ур чадварыг нь нээж өгдөгт оршдог учраас, либерал боловсролын хичээлд онц сурдаг оюутан руу туйлширч, өргөн хүрээнд сэтгэх, нийгмийн болон хувь хүний соёл төлөвшилд бага анхаарч байгааг залруулж, дээд боловсролын суурь хичээлийг.

Хувьд манайд дээд боловсролын заавал үзэх суурь хичээл гэсэн агуулгаар бүгд л байна, зарим талаараа манайд агуулга нь илүү их ч байж мэднэ. Ганцхан тэрхүү хичээлүүдийг дээрх ажлын байранд.

Repertoire Notes

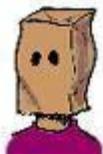
"The Secret of Christmas" is a popular Christmas song, written by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen for Bing Crosby, and first performed by Crosby in the 1959 film, *Say One for Me*. He recorded the song with an arrangement by Frank DeVol for a single that year released by Columbia Records. Crosby recorded the song again in 1964, for the album *12 Songs of Christmas*.

The song has also been covered by numerous artists, including Ella Fitzgerald in 1959 and Julie Andrews in 1982.

And if you are not planning to participate, plan to attend to be part of this first ever festival.



Saturday, December 14, 2013, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Danbury Church of Christ
90 Clapboard Ridge Road
Danbury, CT 06811.



Ye Olde Joke Boarde

Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper



The authorities were leading a priest, a drunkard and an engineer, who was also a barbershop baritone, to the guillotine. They asked the priest if he wanted to face up or down when he meets his fate.

The priest said that he would like to face up so that he will be looking toward heaven when he dies. So, they raised the blade of the guillotine, released it and it came speeding down, then suddenly stopped just inches from his neck.

The authorities took this as divine intervention and released the priest.

Next the drunkard came to the guillotine. He also decided to die face up, hoping that he will be as fortunate as the priest. They raised the blade of the guillotine, released it and it came speeding down, suddenly stopping just inches from his neck.

So, the authorities released the drunkard as well.

Next was the baritone/engineer. He also decided to die facing up. They slowly raised the blade of the guillotine when suddenly the engineer shouted, "WAIT!!!... I think the problem is right there where the cable is binding!!!"

• • •

A barbershop baritone stormed up to the front desk of the library and said, "I have a complaint!"

"Yes, sir?" said the librarian looking up at him.

"I borrowed a book last week and it was horrible!"

Puzzled by the baritone's complaint, the librarian asked "What was wrong with it?"

"It had way too many characters and there was no plot whatsoever!" said the baritone.

The librarian nodded and said, "Ahhh. So you must be the person who took our phone book."

Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Performance

Almost Like Being In Love
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
It's Only a Paper Moon
Kentucky Babe
On The Sunny Side of the Street
Over The Rainbow
Shenandoah
Ten Feet Off the Ground
There Is Nothing Like a Dame
When You and I Were Young,
Maggie

Patriotic/Inspirational

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

Contest

She Never Told Me She Was A Mime
You Can't Roller Skate Through A
Buffalo Herd

In Progress/Upcoming

I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)
Fun in Just One Lifetime
Happy Together
They Say It's Wonderful
Secret of Christmas
Crazy Little Thing called Love



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:	Al Paparesta
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Vacant
Member at Large:	Peter Daubner
Member at Large:	Art Roberts
Member at Large:	Wynn Wilcox
Immediate Past President	Robert Bradley
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

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

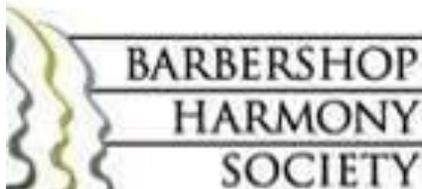
Proofreader: Miss Taralily

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

October Milestones

Birthdays:

3 - Danny Anderson
6 - Joanne Bartley
6 - Marti Hopper
15 - Eileen Paparesta
17 - Augie D'Aureli
31 - Bill Manion



Wedding Anniversaries:

21 - John and Vivien Cheeseman

Mark Your Calendars



Singout

Tuesday October 29, 2013, The Greens at Cannondale, 435 Danbury Rd., Wilton CT. Warm-up @ 7:00pm, Sing @ 7:30pm.

Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 7, Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road Danbury, CT. Warmup, 12 pm, perform 12:30 pm.

First Night Danbury

Tuesday December 31, 2013, St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury CT. TIMES TO BE DETERMINED.

Singout

Tuesday January 21, 2014, Bethel Health Care, 13 Park Lawn Dr., Bethel CT. Warm-up @ 6:45pm, Sing @ 7:15pm.

Singing Valentines

Wednesday February 12 - Friday February 14. LOCATIONS AND TIMES VARY.

Yankee Division Spring Contest

Saturday March 22, 2014, Burlington, VT. LOCATION AND TIMES TO BE DETERMINED.

Annual Show

Almost Like Being In Love, Saturday May 17, 2014. Western Connecticut State University Ives Concert Hall, 181 White St., Danbury CT. Appearing: Hatter Chorus and its quartets, a local high school group, 2013 Yankee Division Quartet Champions SUREFIRE! and the 2006 International Champions VOCAL SPECTRUM. Set-up/Warm-up @ 4:45pm, Perform @ 7:30pm.

The Mad Hatter Chorus
Presents
Almost Like Being In Love!
Featuring The Mad Hatters
and a local high school choir
With special guest
Vocal Spectrum
2006 International Champions
SUREFIRE!
2013 Yankee Division Champions
SATURDAY, MAY 17th | 7:30PM
Ives Concert Hall / 181 White St. / Danbury, CT
\$20 General Admission \$10 Seniors (62+)/Students (Call 203-837-TINK)
DISCOUNTED Advance ticket sales prior to April 4th. (Call 203-744-9480)
www.madhatterchorus.org