

"The Old Chorale"

November 22, 2010

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ **December 3**
5:30 PM Belgrade
Festival of Lights
(Valley Bank)
- ◆ **December 4**
9:55 AM (Fair-
grounds) Pancake
Breakfast
- ◆ **December 7**
6:30 PM, Riverside
CC
- ◆ **December 14**
Christmas Sings
(Page 3)
- ◆ **January 18, 2011**
GranTree, 7:30 PM
- ◆ **March 4-5, 2011**
Annual Show, Grace
Bible Church
- ◆ **April 2, 2011**
Grace Bible Church,
2:00 PM
- ◆ **May 13-14, 2011**
Divisional Contest
Moses Lake, WA
- ◆ **October 7-8, 2011**
District Contest
Spokane, WA



Sig's "Disciplined" Visit with the Alexandria Harmonizers

During my travels this past summer and while visiting the Washington, DC area, on September 14th I attended a chapter meeting of the Society's current 5th place medalist chorus—the Alexandria Harmonizers. I can sum up my experience in one word—discipline.

The Harmonizers meet every Tuesday evening just as we do, but they meet from 7 pm to 10 pm. I arrived at about 6:45 and after a bit of confusion finding them in the building, I eventually found them and entered their meeting space via a side door. A few guys were singing some tags while others were busy setting up the risers. Someone introduced themselves to me and directed me to the main entrance (that I somehow missed) where I was greeted by the VP Chapter Development who was positioned at a podium with a tall skinny barber pole attached to it. Not hard to miss where he was! He was taking roll of members as they came through the door, greeting and writing out name tags for each guest, and handing each a nicely done guest book. He surprised me by asking if I would like to sing on the risers with the chorus! Not wanting to miss that opportunity, I gladly said yes! (*continued on page 2 "disciplined"*)

Have a Happy
Thanksgiving



Disciplined

 (continued from page 1)

Then, promptly at 7 pm, someone made an announcement over their PA system, “Gentlemen—Risers”. After everyone was settled in their places, the VP Music & Performance gave a brief overview of the events for the evening: Start with warm-ups, then at 7:20, review repertoire songs X & Y (I forgot their titles), then at 7:45 introduce portions of competition songs for 2011, at 8:10 work on competition songs for upcoming contest, break at 8:30, chapter meeting at 8:45, back on the risers at 9:00 for Director’s Choice. It was obvious right away that they were disciplined!

We were led through warm-ups by one of their Asst Directors, Anthony Colosimo, a young elementary school music teacher with degrees in Music Education and Performance. Warm-ups were all done in unison, with heavy emphasis on vocal production and tuning. I was amazed by how keenly he could hear minor aberrations by individuals!

Then, cued by the VP Music & Performance (who was disciplined in keeping everyone to the schedule all evening), at 8:20, their young director, Joe Cerutti, appeared and worked the chorus rigorously through two repertoire songs for the next 25 minutes. I learned that Joe is one of the Society’s handful of so-called “Master Directors”—quite an achievement for someone not yet 30 years old! He has a Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting from Boston College and is a high school music educator. This guy was truly a treat! With an amazing ear, he was tough on the chorus and worked us hard, but when we got it right, he’d almost roll on the floor in awe and admiration. They introduced two of their competition songs for 2011 with the VP Music & Performance projecting the music from his laptop onto a screen just behind and above the director, so I thought that worked quite nicely rather than guys being heads down into their music. I was struck too, by the fact that there was no piano in the room. Once the chorus began work on their competition numbers though, I left the risers and had a chair along with some of the guests who didn’t want to attempt to sing with the chorus just yet and a handful of wives. With 80 men on the risers, I hated to step down, since singing with that large group was quite an experience!

The VP Music & Performance ensured that Joe took a break right at 8:30. So, the guys were standing on the risers continuously from 7:00 until 8:30! There were several men in their seventies and perhaps a few even into their eighties who endured standing that long. During the course of that time when I was on the risers with the guys, I was impressed by their discipline in not getting into any discussions or BS sessions while on the risers. The only guys that spoke were the section leaders, and then only briefly to those in their sections. Joe didn’t tolerate individual voices sticking out or any vibrato either, except perhaps briefly by the leads at the ends of some held chords.

Then during the break at 8:30, the guys sat on the risers while the VP Chapter Development got all ten of us guests lined up line-abreast in front of the chorus and introduced each one by name and whether this was their first or second or third visit. Each man got a “Hi Jack” or “Joe” or whatever that man’s name was by the entire chorus followed by a single clap. Each man was then given a small pin-on button he could wear that said “I Sang with the Harmonizers.” Then the chorus stood and sang a welcome song to us. The introductions and the song didn’t take up more than 5 minutes. Only then did anyone leave the risers for a short break. (continued on page 4)

Disciplined

 (continued from page 2)

After their short break, the chapter president made some announcements starting promptly at 7:45, followed by a brief presentation by their chapter historian showing some of the “hardware” they had won over the years that had been in storage. After a few other announcements, the VP Music & Performance reminded everyone who hadn’t yet done so, to get their personal voice part recordings of their competition songs to him before the end of the following week or they would not be able to sing with the chorus at their competition in October. Again, they are disciplined in their approach as to who is going to be a part of the performing chorus—their goal was to become the District Champs, and in October, they accomplished just that. And promptly at 8 o’clock, everyone got back on the risers.

The chorus had a major “sing out” in two days at one of the Smithsonian Institution’s down on the Mall, so Joe had the chorus vigorously working on the repertoire for that along with some pretty spectacular choreography. Again, guys were on the risers continuously until 10 o’ clock. Well, except for those guys “on the move” during their “choreo” floor routines.

After my visit, I think it is fair to say that the Harmonizers get more accomplished in one of their 3-hour chapter meetings than we do in two of ours. They don’t mess around and they are truly disciplined in all they do. Maybe we should try to be more disciplined in the things we do.

Even though I’ve been in barbershop for over 19 years now, this was my first visit to a medalist chorus’ chapter meeting. As you can probably tell, I was truly impressed. During your travels, I encourage all of you to take the time to visit other chapters meetings. You just might learn something that can help us in our chapter.

Sig Dehn

Christmas Sing-around

5:15 Gallatin Rest Home 1221 W. Durston

5:45 Evergreen (actually called something else now, I think) 321 N. 5th

6:15 Mountainview 205 N. Tracy (only one not officially confirmed, but should be by tomorrow)

6:45 Highgate Senior Living 2219 W. Oak

7:15 Spring Creek Inn 1641 N. Hunters Way

7:45 Bozeman Lodge 1547 N. Hunters Way

Reminder that dress is casual with Santa Hats, folders for music is encouraged for a better sound, and consider an afterglow of some sort at the conclusion of the night.

Steve Adams



Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

CONSTANT CHANGE

I just checked in via Internet for a flight to Oregon tomorrow (Nov. 20). Besides patting myself on the back for completing the task, I thought a little about changes since I became a Barbershopper. Just a few:

"It's great to be a barbershopper!"
Dwight Adams



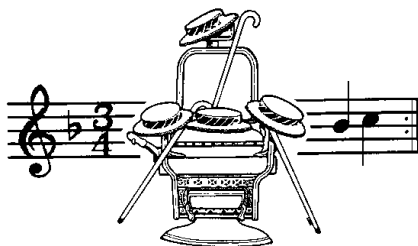
- Paying dues online
- Chapter websites
- Cell phones ringing at the wrong time
- Microsoft Word and Works
- Chapter announcements by e-mail
- Six gazillion by-laws and rules
- More sophisticated arrangements and staging
- A fine generation of new singers

Finally: No change—IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER!

Dewey

♪ Music Team ♪	
Directors: Natalie Berdahl	406-579-2211
Assistant Directors: Charlie McGuire	406-582-0471
Gerry Hovland	406-585-8500
Music VP: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
Section Leaders: Lead: John Sheppard	406-924-4515
Baritone: Tim Lund	406-570-1234
Tenor: Kevin Mattson	406-388-6232
Bass: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966

Chord Rustler Officers	
President: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
VP Music: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
VP Chapter Development: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
VP Marketing/PR: Jerry Mollock	406-522-8894
Treasurer: Sig Dehn	406-586-5747
Secretary: Frank Smith	406-586-4676
Immediate Past President: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
Board Members at Large: Charles McGuire	406-582-0471
Wyman Schmidt	406-587-8013
Executive Vice President: Earl Vining	406-586-6502
Chorus Manager: Steve Adams	406-580-1227
Show Chairmen 2011: Dan Hopper, Dennis Bloxham	406-582-5194 406-223-7824
Sunshine Chairman: Jesse Edgar	406-579-5354



Who is This Chord Rustler?

Periodically, "The Old Chorale" will have an article describing a member's life and experiences. See if you can figure out who it is before the end of the article.

From 1967 to 1970, this Chord Rustler was a tour guide at Lewis & Clark Caverns and prior to that was a four year high school basketball letterman, and was on the football and track teams. His basketball team was co-champion with Dave Schrupp's Rosary team in 1966. This Chord Rustler did a 20-segment AgDay television series in 1994 on the development of the European Corn Borer. Can you guess this fellow barbershopper's identity?

Dan Hopper grew up in the Gallatin Valley attending schools in Three Forks. His Dad was a 33-year employee of the Milwaukee Road and his Mother was a stay-at-home Mom. Both have roots in central Montana (Hilger, Ryegate). Dan's musical background began at an early age listening to his mother play *Nola*, *Country Gardens*, and *Claire de lune* on the piano and his dad playing *My Old Kentucky Home* on the harmonica. Dan started piano lessons at age 6 and continued through 12th grade. Dan was an active participant in High School chorus and band (baritone horn, French horn, percussion) participating in three All State Choruses and the All Northwest Chorus. He remembers the excitement of playing Grieg's *Wedding Day at Troldhaugen* at the Montana state music festival and winning a Superior rating. His piano finale his senior year was Chopin's *Scherzo in B^b minor Opus 31*. Dan attended Montana State University and sang with the MSU Chorale and double-quartet Chamber Choir. A highlight was a month-long tour of Europe in 1969 visiting and performing in six countries.

With a B.S. in Chemistry, Dan and his first wife, Mary Ann (Wormsbecker), and son, David, moved from Bozeman to the New York City area in 1971 where he began a lengthy career in the agricultural chemical industry first with Union Carbide, then Gulf Oil and finally FMC, moving several times in the Midwest and Northeast. Mary Ann passed away in 2002. Dan's four children are all musicians. David is a K-12 music teacher in Belmont, CA with a Masters Degree in Music Performance, Opera; Jeff is a senior computer engineer in Portland, OR and sings with the Consonare Chorale; Christine is a Senior City Planner for the City of Monterey, CA; and Angela is a professional photographer in Savannah, GA and sings with the Savannah Symphonic Choir. Dan has five grandchildren.

Dan returned to Bozeman in 2004 and married his second wife, Carolyn, after "dating" on the Internet for a year. Dan and Carolyn can be found hiking the mountains, photographing wildflowers, attending concerts, and tango dancing. Carolyn's son, Keith, is a freelance photo journalist in Washington D.C. and her daughter, Jessica (a former Navy helicopter pilot), works for an energy information company in Boston.

Dan's love of music is apparent in his devotion to the piano, his role as Bass Section Leader of the Bozeman Symphonic Choir, his 25-year membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society, and his role as an occasional organist and soloist for the Christian Science Church in Bozeman. Dan is a collector of old sheet music and has over 1000 songs dating back to the late 1800s. Dan says, "My first memories of barbershop date back to high school with an attempt with three other classmates to sing Lida Rose. I was hooked on Barbershop in 1977 after seeing the 1976 champion quartet 'The Insiders' at a annual show in Omaha, but I couldn't join due to work commitments until 1985." Dan co-chaired our Veteran's Day show in 2009 and will co-chair our 2011 Annual Show. Currently, he is our Vice President of Music and Performance and is the editor/publisher of our monthly bulletin and our webmaster. Dan said, "Barbershop membership helps preserve the sound and culture of our wonderful hobby. I am thrilled to see new young singers in our chorus."

Dan is self employed as a freelance contract technical writer, copyeditor, and proofreader working for MSU, agricultural chemical companies, and national book publishers.

Jerry Mollock [With a lot of help from Dan Hopper]

Meet Our Two Newest Members

Liessman Sturlaugson

Liessman was born and raised on a small cattle ranch near Carson, North Dakota. He grew up singing in the youth group choir, which held about two concerts a year, as well as giving smaller performances at nursing homes around the area. He continued in college, singing baritone and bass with the Concert Chorale all four years at the University of Sioux Falls, where he majored in computer science and mathematics. For two of those years, he was also a member of a smaller ensemble called the Singing Camerata. He is now attending Montana State University, pursuing a doctorate in computer science. Currently, he works as a teaching assistant for the entry level web design course at MSU.

Patrick Donnelly

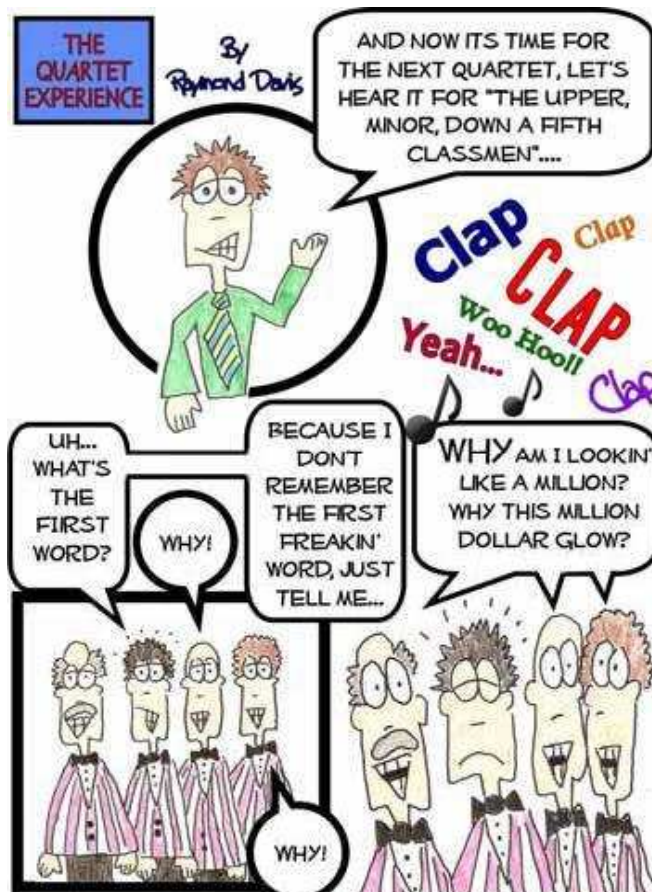
Patrick was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma; studied music at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and Computer Science at Johns Hopkins. He is working toward his PhD in Computer Science at MSU. He is in our baritone section and is a bass in the Symphonic Choir. Patrick enjoys biking, hiking and swimming.



From Bill and Billie Ranard—When we were at Disneyland we encountered a quartet entertaining the guests. I asked if any of them were associated with Barbershop Harmony. One was and the next thing you know I was singing “My Wild Irish Rose.” The lead stepped out. When he came back he said, “Don’t take my job.” It was fun.



Jason Weisser (Big Sky Chorus) and Natalie sing with the barber-shop quartet in Disney World.



Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19th, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00–9:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Mission Statement — Bozeman Chord Rustlers

“The mission of the Chord Rustlers is to sing *a cappella*, four-part harmony, in the barbershop style, to support vocal music education of youth, and to provide audiences with wholesome entertainment for all occasions by men who enjoy musical and social camaraderie, desiring to share their love of music within the community, and who aspire to grow in musical excellence and preserve the tradition of four-part harmony singing.”



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