

The Bulletin of the Miami-Shelby Chapter's Melody Men Chorus
A Friendly Bunch of Guys in the Johnny Appleseed District Who Love to Sing

September 2006

FACE to FACE

My View From The Front
By Dick Baker



Mr. Baker

WHAT A GREAT DAY!

Saturday was one of those marathon days filled with great expectations and energy. It lasted 20 hours from 6:30 AM to 2:30 AM and included 5 hours drive time and a great deal of physical energy expended.

Hopes were high for both my quartet and my chorus. Both groups had been working very hard for this event. But, sometimes, life happens.

My quartet experienced several interruptions that caused distractions and delays. Family demands, illness and injuries plagued us during the past 6 months. We were not as sharp as we had hoped to be. Our presentation was not up to par but we will work on it for District.

The Melody Men Chorus has been working hard and smart over the last 6 months. President Bob Moore has added impetus and energy to our Chapter. Jim Riley has added focus and technique strengthening exercises to our work on rehearsal nights. Brian Phillips helped with some great stage presence ideas. Dan Black designed some moves that enhanced our look and presentations. Many of the experienced quartet members offered suggestions, also. Dale McKinney organized practices. Everyone was involved.

I was very proud of the intensity and musicality shown on stage Saturday. We performed as never before. We were a unit. I felt great when it was finished. Our time on stage seemed to fly by. Our preparation paid off. We were confident and at ease. The final results speak for themselves.

During that A&R, we were given many suggestions that we will digest and put into action during the next year. I hope we can all go to District Contest in October with the same intensity, focus and musicality we showed last weekend. Thank you for your efforts and sacrifices.

The topper for me was being asked to direct the assembled chorus made up of all the barbershoppers

Miami-Shelby Chapter's Melody Men Chorus achieves Most Improved Chorus at Western Divisional Contest.

District Contest & Convention:
Oct. 20-22, 2006
Independence, Ohio
Parma Senior High School
6285 W 54th St
Cleveland, OH 44129, US

Fall District Contest

The JAD Web Site describes the Fall Contest as follows: The District Contest is held in mid-October each year. What do district winners actually win? Well, the Chorus Champions win the right to represent the district at next year's international contest and convention. The district Quartet Champs earn the title, the admiration of everyone in the district, and bragging rights for a year. But the district quartet championship has nothing to do with determining the quartets that represent the district at next year's international contest. That's accomplished at another JAD contest, the "Spring Prelims." Finally, the highest-scoring Senior Quartet at the District Contest will represent JAD at the Midwinter Convention.

in the audience. It started with a presentation by the Melrose Division Singers directed by Mark Blake. All the men in the house were then asked on stage to sing with them. There must have been over 300 singers on stage. Mark directed 2 Barber Polecat songs and then asked me if I wanted to direct. I stepped up and what a thrill. We did "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" and "The Irish Blessing". R.D. Mathey finished with "Keep The Whole World Singing".

1 What a way to finish a great day.

Thank You from Vocal Spectrum

Posted by: "timi1015@aol.com" timi1015@aol.com
timwaurick

Mon Jul 31, 2006 9:27 pm (PST)

Dear Friends,

What an amazing past couple of weeks this has been. Vocal Spectrum is so excited and proud to be the 2006 International Quartet Champions!!! The support we have received is something that we'll never forget. You made us feel so special, and for that, we can't thank you enough. From the moment our quartet formed, we have received support and love from so many people, and have made so many great friends!

Please allow us the opportunity to thank those who have been a part of our lives:

Thank you to the International audience for wrapping your arms around us from the moment that we first met you.

Thanks to all of the chapters who have had Vocal Spectrum perform on your shows. We've really enjoyed getting to know all of you and look forward to coming back again soon!!

Thank you to the Central States District for your support of our quartet for the past few years. The CSD is made up of the greatest people in the world.

We are so fortunate to have so many great friends at home.

Thank you to our chorus, the Ambassadors Of Harmony for always believing in us. You have allowed us the opportunity to grow as musicians and have supported us every step of the way. You really are family to us. Thank you!!

To our two primary coaches:

JIM HENRY: Jim, we cannot express just how much you mean to us. You've been such a great friend, teacher and coach to our quartet. We are so grateful for all of the time you have spent with us coaching, laughing, teaching, laughing and laughing. Honestly, you've taught us that singing and making great music is the most rewarding when you give it all to the audience. Most importantly, you've taught us that being a champion is so much more than just ringing chords. You and the Gas House Gang are shining examples of this, which is why you are so loved by the entire barbershop world.

DAVID WRIGHT: You've been a mentor, arranger, coach, recording engineer and friend to our quartet. You've inspired us to grow, mature and "go for it" with your amazing arrangements. As a friend, you've

Chapter Picnic Mark those calendars!

John and Karen Gearhardt are hosting a Miami-Shelby Chapter Chorus picnic on September 23, 2006. Eat around 5:00 p.m. Come early, enjoy fellowship, and some good chord ringing. The meat, buns, and soft drinks will be furnished. Please bring a covered dish, place setting and lawn chairs and card table if you have one. If the weather cooperates, we will eat outside. If it is raining, the garage will be the shelter. That means John better get busy cleaning the garage. Hope for sunshine and mild temperature!! Please plan to attend – the more people the more fun. See you then!!! By the way, if you don't know where we live – 6239 McMaken Rd. Covington. It is the first road east of Covington, go north on McMaken Rd. (St. Teresa Catholic Church is on the corner of U.S.36 and McMaken Rd.) We are the first drive on the right. Please sign up on the sign up sheet at chorus practice.

given selflessly to our quartet. We enjoy hanging out with you and lowering your IQ to ours! Without your help and friendship, we simply wouldn't exist.

To our other great coaches: Mike Slamka, Sandi Wright, Kevin Keller & Rick Knight: Thank you so very much for your constant support and help. Each of you has taught us so much, you are truly great friends and mentors.

To our parents and families, thank you for everything. You were all there for us in Indianapolis, as you have been for our entire lives. We are so blessed.

A very special "thank you" to Chris' lovely wife, Megan, for allowing him to sing with us!!! We realize the sacrifice that you make every week so that we can sing, and we just can't express enough appreciation for your support and friendship.

The Lord has blessed us with this opportunity and we'll do our best to represent this wonderful society and hobby in the best ways we can. We're looking forward to seeing all our great friends! and making even more new ones in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Chris, Eric, Jonny, and Tim,
Vocal Spectrum

2006 International Quartet Champions_www.vocal-spectrum.com_

An Old Farmer's Advice:

- * Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.
- * Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.
- * Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- * A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- * Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
- * Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
- * Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- * Do not corner something that would normally run from you.
- * It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- * You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- * Every path has a few puddles.
- * When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- * The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- * Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- * Don't judge folks by their relatives.
- * Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- * Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- * Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- * Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- * If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.
- * Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- * The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- * Don't fix it if it ain't broke.
- * Always drink upstream from the herd.
- * Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- * Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- * If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- * Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.
- * Leave the rest up to God.

**Check out the scores from last weekend as well as
Eastern Division next weekend at:**

<http://singjad.com/>



Vocal Production and the Barbershop Quartet

Read some very interesting vocal insights into what it's like to be both a classical and barbershop singer.

By Ben Ayling, Bass of the 1991 International Quartet Champion, **The Ritz**.

As both a university teacher in choral music and a gold medalist, I'm often asked how the vocal production in barbershop quartet singing is similar or dissimilar to that of choral vocal production for the concert stage. Possibly, the better question may be whether it should be similar or dissimilar.

Once, I had the pleasure of spending a few days with the late Moses Hogan. At that time, he was 43 years old, the conductor of the most respected performance choir of spirituals, and the foremost living arranger of spirituals in America. I asked him about his view of vocal production as it applied to his style of music. He said, "We have become more sophisticated over time. We've learned so much about how to sing better so why shouldn't we incorporate this better technique into our style of singing?"

I came away from that conversation thinking about how the same is true in singing the barbershop style. We have learned so much and to not use this knowledge to make better sounds would be cheating the style of becoming a more viable art form. I am the first in line to want to keep it barbershop and I am also most excited to hear better quartets sing with better technique with each passing year.

Technique is technique. It is to be learned so as to add to one's palate of colors and skills. As performers, we need to be willing to stretch ourselves so as to create skills that allow us to sing in different ways for varied situations and styles. As a studio singer of commercials and jingles, I found that there was no such thing as too much technique. Listen, listen, listen! Learn from those great singers from other quartets as well as those from other styles. Be the best kind of vocal thief by stealing from the best and making it your own. Take voice lessons and above all, practice.



A Few Facts Concerning Copyright Issues

More information concerning Copyright.

By Joe Liles, Music Publications Editor

- Songs and arrangements written before 1923 are in public domain (no longer protected by copyright). 1923 songs become public domain in 2019.
- Songs and arrangements written from 1923 thru 1978 are protected for 95 years from their year of creation. Arrangements of those songs are the property of the owner of the song, not the arranger.
- Songs and arrangements written since 1978 are protected for the lifetime of the composer(s) plus 50 years. Arrangements of those songs are the property of the owner of the song, not the arranger. However, an arrangement of a public domain song can be copyrighted by the arranger.
- To arrange a song, an arranger must be granted permission by the owner of the copyright of that song. Until permission has been granted, it is in violation of copyright law for a copy of the "planned" arrangement to be rehearsed or performed. The arranger(s) and performers would be exposed to litigation.
- The arranger of a protected song has no distribution rights to that song, other than that allowed in the agreement between the copyright owner and the arranger. Any distribution of subsequent copies is an exclusive right of the copyright owner, not the arranger, unless the arranger owns the copyright.
- Singing illegal music on shows and in contests is in violation of copyright law. For many years our competitors have vouched for their compliance by signing the contest registration form that includes this statement: #4. "Certifies that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements. We understand that ineligibility will be a consequence for violation of this statement."
- Consideration is being given to making this statement more predominant and clearer, since ineligibility can be declared before or after the contest.
- BHS is in full compliance with copyright law and expects all members to be the same. Copyright law as it pertains to our organization has been covered at COTS, Harmony College, publications, and in many district schools for years.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIAMI-SHELBY CHAPTER SPEBSQSA INC.
HELD AUGUST 7 2006 AT GREENE STREET UMC.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Moore. The roll was taken. Those present in addition to Pres. Moore were: Dave Eleyet Ken Crawford Jim Riley Dale McKinney
Art Wehneman Bill Ganger Neal Webster
Guests: Dick Baker Doyle Flory Don Heffner

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After changing the wording of a sentence in New Business to read.....Don Heffner has volunteered to help with a committee to place yard signs throughout the area advertising our chorus..... The minutes of the July 10th meeting were approved by a motion/second and voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month of July indicated receipts at \$709.85, expenses of \$541.59 and a total amount in all funds of \$9,699.38. The report was passed by motion/second and voice vote.

MUSIC VP Jim Riley will check the contents of the guest music books and update as needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Baker agreed to check on two quartets for the 2007 show. They are "Bustin Loose" and "Keep em Guessin". John Gearhardt will send an inquiry to the quartet "Allies"

By Consensus Dave Eleyet will order a number of the new Society Pocket Calendar.

OLD BUSINESS

Yard Signs--- Fred Pummill of the Middletown Chapter has agreed to meet with the chorus as a whole to explain the procedure as their chapter has had good success with this idea. November 4th was selected as a tentative date for the next IBH night.

As there was nothing further the meeting was adjourned by a motion/second and an affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully submitted
Dave Eleyet Secretary

**Congratulations to the Melody Men on what this
editor prefers to term as:**

“Most Improving Chorus”.

The job's not done yet. On to Independence!

2006 Chapter Officers

President	Bob Moore
Secretary	Dave Eleyet
Treasurer	Ken Crawford
VP Music	Jim Riley
VP Membership	Mark Reedy
Program Co-ordinator	Dale McKinney
Director of Public Relations	Open
Trustee 2006	Art Wehneman
Trustee 2006	Jim Haley
Trustee 2007	Bill Ganger
Trustee 2007	Dan Black
Trustee 2008	Theran Huffman
Trustee 2008	Neil Webster
Past President & District Delegate	Open
Show Chairman	Mark Reedy
Show Director	Dave Maxson
Service Chairman	Gordon Davis
Music Librarian	Art Wehneman
Quartet Contact	John Gearhardt
Editor	Jim Moore
Bulletin Production/ Distribution	Jim Haley
YMIH Chairman	Dale McKinney
Director	Richard Baker
Ass't Directors	Bob Moore Brian Phillips

Miami-Shelby Calendar

Sat, Sep 23th Chapter Picnic at Gearhardts'
Sat, Oct 21st District Performance - Independence Ohio
Rehearsals every Tuesday at 7:30, Greene Street Methodist Church, in Piqua, unless otherwise noted.

NotePaper is scheduled for distribution on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Miami-Shelby NotePaper
c/o Jim Moore
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West Milton, Ohio 45383-1135



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