



Barbershop Notes

Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (Inc.)

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2005

Our President

Mike Donnelly



*A proud Mike Donnelly
- Anzac Day 2005*

Mike Donnelly is a retired US Navy Captain who has lived in Australia for 13 years. His 30 year career in the Navy took him from graduation at the US Naval Academy in 1966 to a final five years in an Admiral's position in Hawaii. In between he was Captain of a destroyer, USS Gray, and Captain of two Naval stations, including the joint USN/RAN base in Exmouth, Western Australia.

On the personal side, Mike's life has been filled with equal parts of music and sport since age 9, with continuous singing in choruses, and participation on baseball or softball teams since that time. Musically Mike participated in a folk song trio, a madrigal group, Glee clubs, community choruses (5 years as President of the Honolulu Chorale), opera choruses, and 13 years of barbershopping with the Sounds of Aloha Chorus in Honolulu, and the Men in Harmony Chorus in Perth. Mike served as President of Men in Harmony and on the Western Region Board for two years, on the AAMBS Board for two years, and has been the AAMBS President for the last three years. He is also Acting President of the World Harmony Council, a thirteen nation association of Barbershop Singers. Mike is eager to further the goal of preservation of the art form of singing, barbershop style, in a manner that provides AAMBS members with a forum for fellowship, camaraderie, vocal and personal improvement, and excellence.

In Exmouth Mike married Vicki, and introduced her to barbershopping in Perth. She is now the Sweet Adeline's Events Coordinator for Australia.

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(A special Thank You to all contributors. It is really great to have so many reports and hearing what you are doing - what an active lot we are! Keep up the good work – Ed.)



FROM YOUR SECRETARY

What AAMBS does for YOU !!

- ✚ Conducts Workshops, Learning Programs, Regional Contests, National Conventions and the Harmony College.
- ✚ Liaises with the Barbershop Harmony Society and distributes copies of "The Harmonizer" to Clubs and Unaligned Quartets
- ✚ Liaises with the New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers Inc. and The Sweet Adelines
- ✚ Produces the "Barbershop Notes" on a bimonthly basis to keep members informed, with contributions from both Choruses and members of the AAMBS Council
- ✚ Maintains a Library of CDs and Videos available for loan to members and choruses
- ✚ Maintains a Website of comprehensive up to date information for members
- ✚ Maintains a Comprehensive Public Liability Insurance for the protection of registered members performing as part of their Choruses or as Registered Quartets
- ✚ Looks for new avenues for recruitment, retention and re-enlistment of members
- ✚ Encourages participation and training as Judges to be employed Regionally, Nationally and by way of interchange with the New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers Inc.
- ✚ Encourages and Fosters a spirit of camaraderie, good fellowship and co-operation between members aimed at finding and providing both personal and community satisfaction and enjoyment of the wealth of Harmony in the Barbershop Style in the performance of traditional and contemporary song.

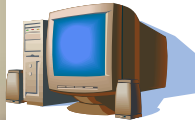
AAMBS' Library



*The AAMBS Library has some great Videos and CDs available for loan to members, **free of charge**. This is your chance to see and hear other Barbershoppers strutting their stuff. There are videos of all the recent National conventions, along with some of the best performances from USA conventions, plus Videos and CDs of top Choruses and Quartets. So why not take the opportunity to check them out. The full Library list appeared in the November / December 2004 Issue 82 of Barbershop Notes which is on the AAMBS Website: www.aambs.org.au*

URGENT MESSAGE FOR CLUB SECRETARIES

Because of recent interrupted service by Telstra in New South Wales, understood to have resulted from an infection of the Telstra web server, Club Secretaries are requested to check their Club's information on the AAMBS Website and to notify the AAMBS Secretary **URGENTLY** of any irregularities.



FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, CONVENTIONS

As promised in my last Barbershop Notes article, I want to continue to introduce you to the judging panel that we will have for the Gold Coast Convention.

Brian Beck is one of our singing judges and while many of you know Brian as the bass of Saturday Evening Post, you may have forgotten that he was also on the judging panel at our Melbourne Convention in 2001. What many of you may not know, however, is that Brian is the only man to have sung all four parts in different quartets that have risen to Top Ten Finalist status in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Brian has been a member of the Harmony Society for 50 years having joined the Dallas Big "D" Chapter in 1954. He sang in a quartet in high school and college and because of his experiences there was able to move into the world of professional studio singing at the age of 19. He sang, wrote, and arranged musical radio station ID's for most of his career, interrupted only by five years of service as an Air Force officer.

Brian was the original Assistant Director/Voice coach for the Vocal Majority and sang baritone in the 1973 International Champion quartet, Dealer's Choice, then moved to lead with the 1983 International Champs, Side Street Ramblers. Before either of those quartets, he sang tenor with the Doo-Dads, who were Top Ten in 1968 and 1970 then sang bass with Great Stage Robbery who were Top Ten in 1994 and 1995 until finally becoming the bass of Saturday Evening Post who are the current Fifth Place International Medallists.

Brian, along with all of the other judges and quartet members, will also make up the faculty of Harmony College following the convention as he did in Melbourne and as one of the attendees at that Harmony College, I can personally attest to the incredible experience of learning from this legend of the Society. And speaking of Harmony College, I'm sure by now, that all of you have seen the information about it on the AAMBS and the Convention websites, along with the registration form. I urge all of you to make an effort to attend this year's College, as it will be by far the best one ever held in the Southern Hemisphere. I would like to emphasize also, that Harmony College is geared for all levels of barbershopping, whether you are a beginner or a seasoned veteran and all levels in between. And although I have been barbershopping for more years than I care to remember, I always get something new and different from each Harmony College that I attend.

I hope by now, that all of you have taken the time to look at the Convention schedule that has been posted on the website. If you have, I'm sure that you will agree that our 8th Convention will be one to long remember and that there will be something for each and every delegate to enjoy and long remember, from the competitions (which have been vastly expanded) to the Master Classes and social events. The Blender's Convention Committee has been working long and hard to ensure that your Gold Coast experience will be one of the highlights of your barbershopping experience. If you haven't looked at the website lately, what are you waiting for?

Although our 2007 Convention may seem a long way off and it's hard to even start thinking about it before 2005 is over, I just wanted to remind you that after a 10 year absence, we will once again be returning to the beautiful city of Sydney where Sydney Harmony will host our 9th Convention. I've already had a chance to meet with their Convention Committee, under the leadership of Chris Miley, and they are laying the groundwork for what promises to be an exciting time. For those of you who mark your calendars that far in advance, please note the dates of 27-30 September, immediately followed by Harmony College from 30 to 3 October, 2007.

Finally, I would again urge any of you who wish to be heard about any Convention matters, please contact me and I assure you that your comments, suggestions or observations will be thoughtfully considered.

Yours in harmony,
Bob Fritz



The Westcoast Chordsmen's recent tour to South Australia for the Voices in Harmony Concert was an outstanding success. The five-day tour period was from Tuesday 26 April through to Sunday 1 May. The touring party, 24 Westcoast Chordsmen chorus members together with 16 partners, were hosted by members and partners from the South Australian Festival Statesmen. The broad aims of our visit were to stimulate interest and foster improvement in the barbershop craft, both in the two South Australian men's choruses, the Festival Statesmen and the Fleurieu Harmony Chorus, and in our own chorus.

Specifically, the objectives of the Voices in Harmony tour were to:

- rehearse and present a major public concert in Adelaide featuring the three men's choruses and the Sweet Adelines' chorus, "Adelaide Sound Connection";
- conduct educational workshops raising the enthusiasm and improving the knowledge and skill levels of all singers;
- foster the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie among members and partners through the rehearsals, workshops and social activities.

First, the Welcome Dinner, a Convivial Time at the Morphett Arms Hotel on Tuesday evening, helped create an instant bond of friendship and appreciation across and within members and partners of the three choruses. Following the dinner, each chorus serenaded those present with a song.

The rehearsals focussed on our preparation for the public concert on Sunday. The rehearsal on Wednesday evening was the main opportunity of rehearsing the concert finale with the Sweet Adelines chorus. The two vocal workshops, on Thursday and Friday afternoon in the Glengowrie Uniting Church hall, were of a more educational nature.

Both workshops were open to members of the public to promote singing barbershop and attract potential new members. The common bond of barbershop was evident as Bruce Okely, ably assisted by Kim Sebbage, acquainted us with 'the general rules in particular and the particular rules in general'.



*Workshopping a Song:
The South Australian Festival Statesmen*

On Saturday, members and partners relaxed with an all-day coach trip to the beautiful Southern vales wine district. We first enjoyed browsing stalls and sampling local produce at the Willunga farmer's Market. We then were joined by our South Australian friends in a picnic barbecue lunch at Kay Brothers Amery winery. Lunch was followed by more singing in the taproom. The Festival Statesmen are to be commended for organising this excellent trip.



A Song in the Shed at Kay Bothers Winery



A Song in the Shed from Sparring Partners

On Sunday morning, we attended and contributed to the music at the 10 am service in the local Somerton Park Baptist church. On Sunday afternoon, our hard work and prayers were rewarded with a most outstanding public concert. It was a sell-out. Medleys were presented by all four choruses, together with contributions from the two quartets Sparring Partners from the Westcoast Chordsmen and Decoupage from the Adelaide Sound Connection. The grand finale to the concert was Bruce Okley's eight-part arrangement of John Denver's 'Perhaps Love' for men's and ladies' choruses. Profit from the show was shared between the South Australian Bushfire Appeal and the Hebron Orphanage Appeal.

Voices in Harmony Concert
Sunday 1 May 2005 2:30 – 4:30 pm
Domain Theatre: Marion Cultural
Centre

Adelaide Sound Connection
Another Opening, Another Show
Beatles Medley
Java Jive

Quartet: Sparring Partners
Down by the Riverside
Down by the Old Mill Stream
Eight Foot Two

The Festival Statesmen
If You Knew Suzie, Like I Know Suzie
Georgia on My Mind
Let's Get Away From It All
California Here I Come

Quartet: Decoupage
Side by Side
Back in the Old Routine

The Westcoast Chordsmen
There's No Business Like Show Business
Can You Feel the Love Tonight
Broome
I'll be a Song And Dance Man Again

- Intermission -

The Fleurieu Harmony Chorus
Fun in Just One Lifetime
Let the Rest of the World Go By
Danny Boy

Adelaide Sound Connection
Go Wild
Laugh Clown Laugh
Mood Indigo

Combined Men's Chorus
Hello Mary Lou
I Believe
Softly, As I Leave You
I Still Call Australia Home
Coney Island Baby

Combined Men's and Ladies Chorus
Perhaps Love



Westcoast Chordsmen Warming Up for the Concert

Finally, the Farewell Dinner at the Morphett Arms Hotel on Sunday evening was a time to relax and celebrate in the harmony of song with new and old friends. A special event during the evening was the presentation by Ken Withers, Music Director of the Festival Statesmen, to Bruce Okely with a certificate of honorary membership to the Festival Statesmen in recognition of his services promoting the craft of barbershop singing in the club.



A Song from the Festival Statesmen



*Bruce Okely:
Honorary Member of the Festival Statesmen*

Such an inter-chorus visit is an experimental event in the Australian barbershop movement. However, the Voices in Harmony tour was voted such an outstanding success that it was not a case of 'Shall we do it again?', but 'When can we do it again?' Much of the success was due to the year long planning and thorough preparation of the organising committees. Special mention is acknowledged for the work of Ken Withers, John Fox, Terry Hughes, Harold Hill and John Young from the Festival Statesmen, and to Keith Swannell, Geoff Wilkens, Bruce Okely, Kim Sebbage, Doug Routley and Doug Davies from the Westcoast Chordsmen. A special vote of thanks goes to the members and partners of the Festival Statesmen for their generous hospitality ensuring that all events went smoothly. Finally, appreciation is extended to Alf Gaebler for sharing his photographs.

*Pender Pedler
Westcoast Chordsmen*



BAYSIDE BARBERSHOP SINGERS INC.

While I was flicking through a recent edition of Business Review Weekly, I came across this little article by Gina McColl. At the risk of preaching to the converted, I would like to share it with other barbershop singers.

Sing a song of healing

The ANZ Banking Group, book publisher Allen & Unwin, the public-health promoter VicHealth encourages staff to take part in group singing as a way to release tension and increase productivity. The director of acapellaworks!, Annemarie Sharry says: "Singing in a group uses creativity and self-expression as a kick-start to better workplace performance. "Sharry, who has conducted staff choirs at the Allen & Unwin and Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, says: "Some experts believe it should not just be done during the lunch break, but as part of the work day."

Singing increases oxygenated blood flow, improves cardiac output and relaxes muscle tension. It can also boost the immune system and reduce stress. In 2004, scientists at the University of Frankfurt in Germany published the results of a study of singers. Comparing the results of blood tests before and after a rehearsal of Mozart's *Requiem*, they found that the concentration of immunoglobulin A (proteins in the immune system that act as antibodies) and hydrocortisone (an anti-stress hormone) increased substantially during singing.

Even though singing is good for your health, the benefits of doing it in a group should not be underestimated. Sharry says: "A lot of concentration is involved in learning a part and listening together, and people really surprise themselves when they get to the end of a song and realise it sounds good ... With all the different levels of authority, from the CEO down, it adds a really interesting dynamic to the relationship between work colleagues.

Michael Haan - President



SYDNEY HARMONY

New Venue

Sydney Harmony is now rehearsing in a new venue after entering into an agreement with the North Sydney Leagues Club. Rehearsals are still on Mondays at 7.30. The address for the new venue is 12 Abbott Street, Cammeray, New South Wales 2062 Australia. **Website:**

www.nslc.com.au

The venue has a number of advantages over the Drummoyne RSL Club not the least is that it stays open later on Monday nights and the social life of the chorus is enhanced by people staying behind to sing and have a drink in the bar.

Appearances

The chorus is preparing for a number of appearances in May and June. The first is on 21 May when the Chorus is supporting FREEFALL, the current Australian champions, at a concert to raise money for them to go to Salt Lake City to compete in the International in July. On 4 June Sydney Harmony is participating in the AAMBS Eastern Region Jamboree and quartet competition and in the week of the 15 – 21 June the chorus is competing in the Community Choir section of the Sydney Macdonald's Performing Arts Challenge, which we won last year.

Sydney Harmony is also encouraging younger members, as can be seen by this photo of a new young tenor, who passed his assessment audition on his first try !!



*Ben Catt on the risers - 7 year old
son of our Musical Director, Jim Catt*

Rob Walley – President

FREEFALL –



FREEFALL in concert at Bundaleer Weekend Arts Festival

Next Stop – Salt Lake City!

How to prepare for singing at an International contest? In the lead-up to our appearance at the Salt Lake City Convention in July, the lesson FREEFALL has learned is to always be ready to sing and always be prepared to say “yes”.

Some of the most challenging and satisfying singing opportunities we've had recently have come out of the blue, via an unexpected phone call or a surprise e-mail. (Tip: It pays to have your quartet registered with AAMBS and listed on the website, have your details posted on your chorus site or, like us, even have your own website). One such e-mail asked if we were interested in auditioning as the vocal group “band” for a proposed live-to-air weekly television show on a major national network. We couldn't type the three letters Y-E-S quick enough! When we got the call telling us we'd passed the audition and they wanted us on the show we were over the moon.

The next few weeks were both exciting and really hard work. For the pilot episode we had to come up with original 4-part arrangements to snippets of a dozen mostly contemporary pop songs – everything from Britney Spears and Jet to classics like “What's New Pussycat?” and “Under My Skin”. Thankfully our bass Sam came up with the goods and with some input from the rest of us and a lot of rehearsal we were ready for the cameras and live audience. It was a real blast! After that formative experience, the prospect of singing in front of 15 judges and to thousands of rabid Barbershoppers in the Salt Lake City audience doesn't seem quite as scary.



FREEFALL in Bundaleer Forest

A much less intense but extremely enjoyable singing venture came in March when we were invited as guest performers at the Bundaleer Weekend Arts Festival, held near Jamestown, South Australia. We found ourselves outdoors, singing in the idyllic setting of Bundaleer Forest, Australia's oldest forest reserve. Surrounded by tall gums, a natural amphitheatre, thronging crowds and sharing the

experience with fellow performers such as operatic baritone Teddy Tahu Rhodes and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, we had a truly wonderful time. It was a great opportunity to showcase our style of barbershop harmony at such a high profile cultural event and from the feedback we received, the audiences loved it. We know we'd gladly drop everything and go back were ever asked again.

So it's on to Salt Lake for us now. For those of you who may be interested in catching our performance on the webcast (www.spebsqsa.org/) we have drawn position 10 so we will be singing in the first session of the quartet Quarter Finals which should convert to being on sometime between 4.00 & 5.00am EST on Thursday 7th July. In addition to the main contest, FREEFALL will be performing in the World Harmony Jamboree with all the various quartet there if we and chorus champions and, on the Sunday morning, we are privileged to be included in a combined 600-voice Gold Medal barbershop chorus which will be singing with the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir in an event called Sacred Gold. That will really be something.

Until next time we meet - Keep on singing!
Tony, Jim, Sam & Guy
FREEFALL



Central Coast Barbershop Chorus

Our Chorus has recently been admitted to the Central Coast Leagues Club as a “Club within a Club”.

The wonderful result has been very beneficial to our chorus with financial support as well as a new venue to practice each week.

Our Chorus agreed to become known as the “Central Coast Leagues Club Barbershop Chorus” and will now meet at the Central Coast Leagues Club, Level 1, Auditorium, each Monday night commencing from 7.00pm.

If you have any membership inquiries please do not hesitate to contact Ray Bale on 0419 125256.

Ray Bale - Membership

Thought for today (& every day):

**The only place where
SUCCESS comes before WORK
is in the dictionary.**



The Blenders are busy preparing for the Sunshine Region competition and looking forward to meeting up with our friends in the local district. We have a number of quartets competing also in the hope of qualifying for the nationals being held on the Gold Coast this October.

Mother's Day is one of our pet days of the year and we always look forward to entertaining on that day.

Please remember that we are having a reunion of all members and ex members of the Blenders. It promises to be a great time for all.

X Marks the Spot for Blenders

By Charles Cooper (Baritone – The Blenders)

"We picked him up on the train!" is what some members have said. Others have remarked warmly "Welcome back!". The truth is that I was with the old faithful of *The Banana Blenders* for a few months in 2000 and then I finished school in 2001, did 2 years of film school study and throughout it all I knew I wanted to return to barbershop singing...all it would take was a little magic...

It 'twas a fateful train trip that brought me back. Back to *The Blenders*. I had just finished a film shoot. *The Blenders* had finished in Brisbane performing at the Eisteddfod 2004 and some of the men just so happened to catch the same train and the same carriage – at the same time as myself. I couldn't help but think that it was coincidence.

Upon returning to the world of harmony singing, I was welcomed back with open arms and a melody in my heart as I realised I was no longer a tenor, but rather a long lost baritone. Then came the task of catching up with the chorus.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn of the new repertoire and the range of singers both young and old alike. Charmed at the camaraderie that still existed in the chorus and amazed at the improved vocal ability (which we are constantly improving all the time) – it felt great to be back!

After all these months, I hadn't had my first performance in the public eye with *The Blenders*. Then the call for *X-Factor* came and the game was on. TV commercial shoots, promo shots and a flagging tour to Melbourne to perform live in front of an audience and millions watching at home on the box. *The Blenders* certainly had to have more than the *X-Factor* to complete such a task.

Thanks to *Jetstar* and *McDonalds*, *The Blenders* flew to Melbourne and arrived to find 2 buses waiting complete with our logo. Network Ten was in to promote our chorus. *Somerset Hotels* was generous with rooms and

accommodation and the program was set for a vigorous 4 days of promoting and concert numbers.

The first stop was *McDonalds* in Tullamarine, Melbourne. We sang for the cameras, for the diners there and the manager was kind enough to shout the whole chorus our lunch.

Continuing after rehearsals, *The Blenders* went on to *Federation Square* the following day to shoot more promos followed by an emotional stop over at *Ronald McDonald House* in Parkville. As the men sang *An Irish Blessing* there was not a dry eye in the house. Who said boys don't cry?

The night time would come and we'd all have a meal out somewhere. Visit a pub someplace, talk for hours on end and drink some more somehow.

Who can forget singing tags as we walk around town at 2am in the morning? Being amazed at how cheap breakfast was? Or discovering that one of the bus drivers didn't have a clue which lane to use and could crash into anything whenever he felt like it? These are some of the memories I take home with me.

Nevertheless, *The Blenders* arrive at the Vodafone Arena for the *Xtra-Factor* show and rehearsals get under way with tension and anxiety running high. What made us work so well under such stress? Being able to compromise.

When making films, as much as I am a self-confessed perfectionist, I was told from day one to compromise. Be it may of time, logistics or schedule – I learnt quickly to adopt that attitude and I relate that to being with the chorus. Things aren't always how you'd like it – you learn to adapt, accept the change and move on. Otherwise, if you stall, you're wasting not only your time but other people's as well. Being able to adjust had to happen on the set of *X-Factor* for *The Blenders* to run smoothly.

We had to adapt and change our singing, riser positions, choreography and costumes. *The Blenders*, being the great chorus we are, accepted the responsibility of change and adaptation for the television audience. And that proves something.

The opening number, *My Honey's Loving Arms*, went down well with the TV audience and that was not all. My first performance was over. Another to begin.

Viva L'Amour was performed live on *Xtra-Factor* and was a spectacular display of *The Blenders* in action. But wait...there's more...

The audience was seated for a gorgeous performance of *Shout!* on the *X-Factor* set. I think we all remember the audience well and truly as we kicked into gear – they went along for the ride and started to clap in time. What an incredible buzz!

Mr. Adrenaline didn't visit me but Mr. Excited did and I can assure you that performing on that stage was a thrill like no other. This was an opportunity of a lifetime.

After getting what seemed endless messages and phone calls complimenting us on our efforts – I know that I can now call myself a true Blender. All the rehearsals, learning the songs, choreography and learning good vocal technique has been worth it because at the end of the day – we, together, are the ones who come out on top.

A huge thank you to everyone who has made this tour successful. Each and every member of the chorus who has contributed in one way or another – be it through organising, promoting or adding their own personal contribution through their gift of singing. It has been a whirlwind tour in Melbourne and a fantastic way to show off our vocal talents on a national scale.

The Blenders are the greatest entertainment chorus in Australia hands down. Talent is Everywhere ... sometimes ... juuuuusst kidding! We have the X-Factor and always will!

Harold Howson – VP Membership

The Sunshine Statesmen

A couple of years ago I wrote a little piece entitled "Happy Medium", in which I suggested that the thrill of receiving a medal or trophy for our efforts is only part of the motivation we need to keep us singing.

- For the singer there is the moments when the dementia patient mouths the words of the song your singing to them or the tear rolling down the face of the mother your serenading on Mothers Day.
- For the M.D. its when your chorus sings in front of audience that have had a happy day of drinking and playing golf and never miss a beat.

The Rotary Clubs Tsunami charity golf day was probably not the most appropriate venue for an a cappella vocal group to strut their stuff, but the money was good. *'There's No Business Like Show Business'* - *'Alexander's Ragtime Band'*- *'This Little Light of Mine'* all done with all the facial and choreo

we could manage, to give the show a bit of theatre. Half the audience showed their appreciation the other half were too far gone to know, the guys never missed a beat, never stopped smiling and not once did they raise their voices to compete with room noise.

People came up after and asked how did we manage to hold it together "; "I couldn't hear you above the chatter but you looked terrific".

Now I know the pride that Rose and Jim feel when their guys produce the goods.

Broadwater Connection

THE BUSINESS OF A NEW DIRECTOR

I have been Musical Director of Broadwater Connection Chorus now for five months. It has taken time for us all to feel comfortable with each other, and for the guys after 18 months to have a female Director. I have brought my own style to the Chorus and am so proud of the effort the guys have made for me. What a great bunch.

During the past month we have had quite a number of sing-outs. "Finlandia" Retirement Village was the first sing-out that we had since I began. It was very successful, the audience (mostly Finnish) really appreciated the Chorus. We also had a Russian band called "Russian Borders"(to which I belong playing accordion) and this group complimented the concert well, giving the men time to "take five". Then we have had two sing-outs at the Dutch Village and one at the local shopping centre. Our next sing-out will be a local Retirement Village and then we have the Regionals.

Within every chorus there will be men of talent – whether within their work environment of musically. I have kept my ears open and have heard a couple of the men talking and I realised that they played or had played a musical instrument. So, I have got together a little jazz group within the chorus consisting of Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet and Accordion. So most of our concerts now have the talents of this group which adds variety to our concerts.

We have been rehearsing hard for the Regionals and it has taken a while to convince the guys of the approach I am taking. But they are trying so hard that whatever the outcome of the Regionals I sincerely hope that their effort will pay off and that they can go away saying they had a lot of fun. You realise as a Director that not all of the men will spend time learning their notes and this is very sad and frustrating for us. So you do your best to put together a group of mostly retired men from all walks of life and try your best to get that wonderful barbershop sound which when heard touches your heart and makes the hairs on your arm stand up.

I say "good luck" to everyone who participates in the Regionals and the Nationals. From the small choruses to our larger choruses may everyone join in the wonderful camaraderie of this great style of singing, and may we support and encourage each other along the way.

Janet Sippen
Musical Director

Ed. Note –

We do like to include Chorus Logos in your reports, but some choruses do not have logos available YET.

From The Wellingtones –

“Men in Harmony Month” in Tasmania

(Ed: Not to be confused with AAMBS longest standing Chorus “Men in Harmony” from Perth)

More than 60 men on stage singing barbershop. This was the stirring finale of the Men in Harmony Concert held in Hobart on April 30th before an enthusiastic audience of more than 500 people.

“Men in Harmony Month”, conducted by the Wellingtones, clearly captured the interest of the community. Not only did it give all interested men a chance to experience the energy and fun of barbershop singing, it also provided an opportunity for us to showcase barbershop singing to a wider public.

Each Sunday afternoon during April, the “Men in Harmony Chorus” came together to rehearse *Making Whoopee* and *I'm in the Mood for Love*, two new arrangements from the pen of MD Fred Brown. Fred also led the coaching team that included Assistant MD Ric Finlay.

The concept for the “Men in Harmony” program came from Richard Gardam, and was a response to concerns late in 2004 regarding the longer term viability of our Chorus. Richard provided inspirational leadership throughout the program. He also successfully coordinated a small team undertaking the many organisational and promotional tasks.

Initially, in November 2004, we successfully applied for a state government Adult and Community Education Grant that funded promotional and other costs of running the tutorial program.

Our up front intention for the program was to encourage men to have ‘a go’ at recreational singing without having to make a long term commitment

Immediately before Easter, the Minister for Education, Hon. Ms Paula Wreidt, launched the “Men in Harmony” program at a Hobart men’s hairdresser. At the launch, Acappellago serenaded an obviously delighted Minister with *If You Were the Only Girl in the World*.

The culmination of the “Men in Harmony” program was a concert featuring nine men’s ensembles. The interests of Barbershopping were in the safe hands of Close Shave, Acappellago, and a new quartet from the Wellingtones, Fourman Material as well as the Wellingtones Chorus. Men’s ensembles from a number of Hobart’s mixed choirs were formed specifically for the concert. A group of young men from Launceston, The Fellas, also sang in close harmony. All up, close on 100 men were involved during the month.

Already a number of men who participated in the “Men in Harmony” program have started to rehearse with the Wellingtones on a regular basis. It is also a plus that the program has re-energized the Club.

Currently, we are undertaking a review of the program and confidently expect to make “Men in Harmony” an annual event.

Trevor Rootes
Secretary

Smart Web Sites

Virtual Creations (Mark Virtue from Sydney Harmony) built the websites for AAMBS, Sydney Harmony, and the River City Clippers.

Chorus Websites

Use cutting-edge technology to transform your site into a powerful communications tool for your members.

⇒ Maintain your own website content - no technical expertise required

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What can we do to encourage vocal music in our communities ?

The key to chorus growth is using your chorus and quartets to make the art of harmony singing more visible in the community. I was having this very conversation with a colleague the other day and I was challenged simply to list twenty ways in which this community visibility thing could be achieved.

Some time ago, I came across a Barbershop Harmony Society article on ' What We Can Do To Encourage Vocal Music in our Communities' so I downloaded it and stored it away for the proverbial 'rainy day'. The conversation with my colleague reminded me that I had this article tucked away somewhere and lo and behold I found it. It made my list of twenty seem very puny indeed. This 'idea generating' article lists six ways you personally or a quartet can encourage vocal music in the community, ninety six ways the chorus could do the same and eleven ways AAMBS and the Regions could chip in. It really is a something for everyone so with acknowledgement to the Society, here's the article slightly adjusted for the Aussie scene:



Personal / Quartets

1. Appear at promotions for local music stores.
2. Ask people you meet "Is singing missing in your life?". Then give them information on local singing organizations.
3. Conduct "fifth wheel" singing at shopping malls (invite passers by to experience the joy of singing) and hand out information on local singing organizations.
4. Create a "singing group bulletin board" link on the local community web site.
5. Hand out information on all local community singing groups at your performances.
6. Sing with a "celebrity" on local TV with a "plug" or local vocal music clubs.



Chorus

1. Adopt school choral group.
2. Apply for local arts grants to support a project dedicated to promoting community music programs.
3. Appoint each chorus member as an "Ambassador of Vocal Music".
4. Arrange inter-faith choral performances for major community events.
5. Arrange to sing with the local symphony.
6. Become advocates for vocal music programs at School Board Meetings
7. Conduct "Harmony Month" campaigns in conjunction with other community singing groups.
8. Conduct old fashioned sing-alongs at movies.

9. Conduct sing-alongs during intermissions at various community and sporting events.
10. Create a "singing group bulletin board" link on the local community web site.
11. Create a travelling minstrel show with community vocal groups to visit and entertain at local schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.
12. Deliver 20-second spots promoting community singing to all radio and public TV stations in the area.
13. Develop contacts with other community singing and musical groups to plan joint efforts.
14. Donate money to community musical organizations.
15. Donate money to local school choirs monthly.
16. Encourage interested guests to form quartets and sing for the chorus.
17. Enlist corporations to donate or pay for bill boards to promote community vocal groups.
18. Exchange visits and appear jointly with other vocal groups.
19. Feature local singers and groups on your shows.
20. Feature school choruses to sing on chorus performances and shows.
21. Find and support a media advocate for vocal music in the community.
22. Form a community-based music association.
23. Fund a toll free number with pre-recorded information on all local vocal music organizations.
24. Give "Harmony Recognition Awards" to schools and other community music groups.
25. Hand out information on all local community singing groups at your performances.
26. Hold "March Madness Quartet and Vocal Ensemble Contests" in shopping malls.
27. Hold a Christmas benefit show with other singing groups for a community-based charity.
28. Hold a singing contest on the radio.
29. Hold sing-alongs at all public quartet and chorus performances.
30. Host a community vocal talent night.
31. Host recognition ceremonies for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who earn singing and choral merit badges.
32. Invite all vocal groups in the community to sing together at a major community event.
33. Invite youth and diverse groups (e.g., gospel chorus) to sing on shows.
34. Join other community singing organizations to sponsor school singing competitions for all age groups.
35. Lead community sing at Christmas lighting ceremony.
36. Lead sing-alongs at half time for local football team.
37. Offer "honorary memberships" to VIPs and publicize.
38. Offer free vocal coaching to other community vocal groups.
39. Organize a "corporate challenge" to select a community singing champion.
40. Organize a "music of my youth" concert with community vocal groups for grandparents clubs.
41. Organize a Boy Scout / Girl Scout sing along.
42. Organize a children's music workshop with other community music groups.
43. Organize a community-Christmas performance with groups throughout the community.
44. Organize a lip synch contest.
45. Organize a local "service club" singing competition and arrange for participation from all community singing groups. Include local PR and prizes to stimulate interest.
46. Organize a vocal music council in community.
47. Organize adult education classes for singing.
48. Organize community choral performances for teachers during "in-service" days.
49. Organize community vocal group to sing at the Olympics.
50. Organize father-son community choral group.
51. Organize mass sing of patriotic songs at major community and sporting events.
52. Organize mass sings at major community events.
53. Organize mass sings of all community choirs for special occasions
54. Organize meeting with vocal music teachers to define their needs, and then address them.
55. Organize program for local vocal music groups to open City Council meetings with songs.
56. Organize sing-alongs at corporate meetings.
57. Organize strolling singers in neighbourhood for year round performances.
58. Organize summer music and vocal festivals with community groups.
59. Organize vocal music demonstrations at local library.
60. Participate in a cappella summits.
61. Partner with Sweet Adelines for events and appearances.
62. Perform on and sell tickets to school musical performances and donate all money raised to the school music program.
63. Pick up costs for all state choir participants from your community.

64. Place community music information in "Welcome Wagon" packets.
65. Plan joint performances with local symphony.
66. Produce a vocal cabaret featuring community vocal music groups.
67. Produce recording of school chorus. Then market, sell, and give profit to the school music program.
68. Promote the financial and health benefits of singing as a life style.
69. Provide guest conductor for college choir.
70. Provide local music teacher with assistance, music, encouragement for performances.
71. Provide music education kits to schools.
72. Provide someone to lead community (gang) singing at all business and other non-singing conventions coming into a community.
73. Provide entertainment for local community group functions.
74. Publish "singing group bulletin board" with description, meeting and performance information on all local vocal music groups in all church bulletins.
75. Rent kiosks to promote community music activities.
76. Run festivals and competitions for community music organizations.
77. Serve as a broker for elementary school music programs in regard to music and instructional materials.
78. Sing for free for anyone.
79. Sing spontaneously in public.
80. Sing with a "celebrity" on local TV with a "plug" for local vocal music clubs.
81. Sponsor "healing through harmony" events.
82. Sponsor a "parent-child" community sing off with local corporate sponsorship.
83. Sponsor a Boy Scout "Venturing" program for vocal music.
84. Sponsor a gospel sing.
85. Sponsor benefit shows for music departments.
86. Sponsor church/religious music festival with community choirs.
87. Sponsor community singing workshops.
88. Sponsor forum and professional seminars for community choral leaders.
89. Sponsor lunch-time chorus formation in the work place.
90. Sponsor public patriotic sing-alongs.
91. Start a military singing club.
92. Support development of a "parent's chorus" for assorted community organization.
93. Underwrite a community vocal talent show.
94. Underwrite church choir and high school music performances.
95. Volunteer to assist with school music contests and adjudications.
96. Write letters to the editor of local papers promoting vocal groups and activities.



AAMBS/Regions

1. Develop 20-second spots promoting community singing to deliver to radio and public TV stations.
2. Develop PR campaign to gain national recognition for collective Association efforts to encourage vocal music in our communities.
3. Develop tabloid inserts for use with local publications.
4. Develop tapes and CDs for sing-alongs.
5. Negotiate reciprocity membership agreements with other vocal music groups.
6. Negotiate with universities to recognize choral director experience as "internship" for college credit.
7. Organize web-based sing-alongs.
8. Promote Harmony Week.
9. Provide scholarships to college vocal majors.
10. Sponsor "healing through harmony" events.
11. Sponsor harmony workshop with community vocal music organizations.

Tom Smith – VP Marketing & Development



AAMBS is planning to develop and offer courses/workshops in a proposed

Chorus Officer Development Program

The plan is to run workshops in major cities and also to develop Multimedia CDs for Chorus members unable to make it to a weekend workshop.

We are seeking volunteers from within the AAMBS membership to help develop the course syllabi.

Experience in developing course syllabi or course learning objectives is most desirable.

If you have these skills and would like to be part of the Development team, please contact:

Tom Smith
VP Marketing & Development
tsmith@alphalink.com.au

AAMBS Privacy Policy

In compliance with the requirements of the law under which AAMBS Inc is incorporated, some personal details of members have to be held. These are being kept to the minimum - for most members, it only amounts to their name and address. For office-bearers, contacts for quartets etc., a telephone number and, if available, a 'fax number, mobile number and/or email address is recorded.

The AAMBS Council desires to prevent inappropriate use of the information it holds about members, and has therefore adopted the following policy:

"Personal details of members of AAMBS (Inc) that are held by AAMBS (Inc) shall at all times be treated as confidential, and shall not be provided to any person or organisation for any reason other than to facilitate contact with members by AAMBS (Inc)."

This policy is binding on all members and employees of, and contractors to, AAMBS Inc.

*Kevin White
Secretary*

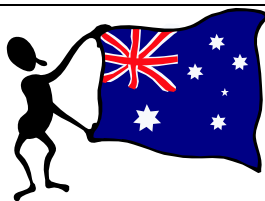
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