

Dateline: Annual Show called "A Fistful of Spaghetti"



Joan Golding Photo

by Steve Sarandis

As most of you know, we recently had our annual show on May 7, 2016. This is the second year in a row that we decided to put on a dinner theater presentation. This year, "A Fist Full of Spaghetti" was presented by the Orange Empire Chorus. It was a time of fun by our chorus and was essentially a spoof of the "Spaghetti Westerns" that were

produced by **Sergio Leone**. **Sergio Leone** was born in 1929 in Rome and was a son of silent film director by the name of **Vincenzo Leone**. He was best known for the creation of the spaghetti westerns. One of his best known westerns was "A Fistful of Dollars" in 1964, starring an unknown **Clint Eastwood**. "A Fistful of Dollars" created the Spaghetti Western genre which encompassed more than 200 films, sharing the features of being created in Italy, frequently being filmed in Spain, featuring self-assured killers with no names, scores either by **Ennio Morricone**, or in his style, and, of course, the shootout.

Of course, infamous names such as Rick De Lung and







Tom Nichols, wrote this production on a nickels budget. And of course, as expected, it had scores of puns, a cast of good, bad and ugly characters, audience participation and of course music. But it had one added feature. It had a real spaghetti dinner, which was rustled up by Janet Bratton Nichols and The Orange Blossoms.

It proved to be a success. I thank everyone who

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Joan Golding photos

Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Jay Campbell, Steve Sarandis, Steve Hansen, Tom Nichols, Mark Logan, Dave Orosco & Craig Ewing

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participated and made it a success and especially our Director of Set Design, **Pete Saputo** and helpers. Everyone I talked with enjoyed it and had lots of fun. Now that we set the stage, the most pressing question is,

what will be coming next year? What advice do cows give? Turn the udder cheek and

mo-o-o-ve on.

































Are You Really A Barbershoper?



Joan Golding Photo

By Mark Logan

I, like many of us, have been very entertained over the years by the so-called "Blue Collar Comedians." Of those three, probably my favorite has been **Jeff Foxworthy**. He has a huge following and his shows are commonly sold out in advance. His style of self-deprecating humor seems to connect with most people. What

has been his most popular and widely cherished bit involves him classifying certain conduct or condition as being indicative of being a "redneck". Typically, he recites an activity or condition followed by "...then you might be a redneck."

I have noticed that there are activities which might be rightfully associated with being a barbershop singer. I have listed some that have occurred to me. I will list them here, but only the first will be followed by the remainder of the phrase "...then you might be a barbershopper." You will be challenged in the remaining examples to include that phrase yourself. Here is an example of conditions or activities which may be indicative of a person being an acolyte of barber singing:

If you have sheet music in more than one room in your house... you might be a barbershoper.

If you often sing in your car...with the windows down... including at stop lights, ...

If you often can't fall asleep at night because of a song running through your mind, ...

If you awake in the middle of the night with a song running through your mind, ...

If you awake in the morning with a song running through your mind, ...

If the primary meaning of the word "tag" no longer relates to the label attached to clothing, ...

If you start thinking of and practicing Christmas songs in July, (or earlier!), ...

If the meaning of the words "after glow" are no longer associated with cuddling and warm, romantic feelings, ...

If you can't meet with three other guys without wondering whether you comprise all four parts for a quartet, ...

If your wife begs you to not sing the song you are practicing for an up-coming performance for the millionth #*@+% time (!!!), ...

If the selection of CDs, flash drives and other recorded music you have in your car for listening pleasure is comprised of many different genres – all in the barbershop style, ...

If much of the recorded music played in your car (or home, or on your computer) starts with the playing of the pitch, ...

If your wife seems to know the dialogue from the script to an up-coming show as well, or better than you do, ...

If you sit at the computer blankly staring at the screen wasting countless hours trying to figure out what to write for the next issue of "*Clippin*'s, ..."

I know that these examples merely scratch the surface of a deep ocean of potential conduct or conditions which may be strongly associated with, and indicative of, barbershop singing. I am hereby, (an attorney word), proposing that there be a standing column in the "*Clippins*" henceforth, (another attorney word), so that this list be fully explored and developed by all members of the OEC Chorus. With such a fertile resource of active and creative minds, the list may be endless.



The "Fabled Barberpole of Kenosha"



Joan Golding Photo

By Craig Ewing

The **"Fabled Barberpole of Kenosha**" was proudly displayed the past two years at the *South Bay Chapter* shows along with their other awards.

For those not aware of the legend, South Bay challenged Fullerton to see who would score better at the district competition.

They had created "*the boot*", a very garishly decorated high heeled thigh-high piece of women's footwear, and the loser had to display the award prominently at their next show. *South Bay* won that year and the *Orange Empire Chorus* placed "*the boot*" at the front of the stage for our pirate-themed show.

The chapters decided to have a rematch the following year, this time won by *Fullerton*. We did not want to give up "*the boot*" so *South Bay* was awarded the "*Fabled Barberpole of Kenosha*", a flashy (and flashing) prop created by **Pete Saputo** for an annual show.

For those really new to the barbershop world, the headquarters for the *Barbershop Harmony Society* used to be in Kenosha, Wisconsin – before moving to 7th Street



in "Music City" (Nashville)

It is wonderful to have this inter-chapter camaraderie with the other chapter in SoCal that puts on a fully scripted barbershop theatre production each year.

BOTM - Feb, Mar & April



by Jay Campbell

At our rehearsal on April 5th, **Don Derler** was presented with the *Barbershopper Of The Month* award (for the month of February) by **Ken Klein**.

Normally, Don would have prepared the Certificate (...suitable

for framing!) and then framed it for the BOTM, but Ken did not want to "let the cat out of the bag" so it took longer than normal for the award to be printed and framed for the presentation ceremony.

Don received this award for his willingness to "wear many different hats" and for "stepping up" when the Chorus needed his help and expertise - which he certainly has a lot of!

Jobs well done! Congratulations, Don!



"BOTM" continued on page 7

Youth in Action



Joan Golding Photo

positive comments from audience members, and had a great time. The OC Student Union also performed at our spring show and helped us serve dinner to 371 guests. They were terrific in both capacities. Everyone I talked to mentioned how impressed they were with the boys' singing, and how exciting it was to see young people taking up our hobby. As one boy scurried around helping to clean up after the show, his mother told me, "I'm so excited to see him interested in something. He just loves barbershop. All he would do before was play video games."

In February we sent more than 60 students to the *Masters of Harmony's Young Men's Harmony Festival* and the *Harborlites' Diva Day* one-day harmony camps. They went back to their high schools after those experiences and formed quartets.

Two of those quartets won top honors

in the Southern California Novice Quartet Contest presented by the Orange Quartet Chapter. Nothing Rhymes with Orange from Fullerton Union High School took first place and

Glasses Half Full from *La Habra* was second, coming in ahead of five older and more experienced quartets. Both of these quartets, along with *La Habra's Charmettes* and the *Buena Park HS Barbershop Club*, performed at their high schools' spring choir concerts.

It would be great to get more of our members to these concerts to support the high school programs. *The Sugar Daddies* all attended the *La Habra High School* concert and received an unexpected benefit – they asked us to sing! If you have not sung for a high school audience before, I recommend it. The overwhelming enthusiasm of their response was loud and heart-warming.

By Tom Nichols

It has been a busy few months on the youth front.

January saw our youth chorus, the *OC Student Union*, competing at the mid-winter convention in Reno. **Pete Saputo, Don Derler, Mike Evans** and I accompanied the boys and we got to watch them experience their first barbershop convention. They performed well got lots of

They performed well, got lots of

In March we held a competition for young musicians. The competition winners were vocalist **Yoomie Kim**, pianist **Aldric Gozon**, and violinist **Cerrik Chin**. A couple of weeks later we held a recital of the three winners and awarded them each a \$1000 music scholarship. The recital brought a fair-sized crowd and we entertained them with songs and stories, though the scholarship winners were tough to follow. Two quartets from La Habra High School, the *Charmettes* and *Glasses Half Full*, also turned out to wow the crowd. We finished up with a great set from the *Velvet Frogs*, one of the most entertaining quartets in the district.

In April we sponsored the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Choral Masterworks Concert in which



David Montoya leads 110 students in Regina Coeli by W. F. Mozart at a concert sponsored by the Orange Empire Chorus.

students from five local high schools, four professional vocal soloists, and a 12-piece orchestra gave a terrific performance of Mozart's "Regina Coeli" and Schubert's "Mass in G". Seeing



2016 Southern California Novice Quartet second place finisher Glasses Half Full. From left: Baritone Justin Gabriel, Bass Oliver Solares, Lead Antonio Serrano, and Tenor Jaysson Yriarte

16 musicians perform a concert after only one rehearsal (at which they were able to sing or play their parts perfectly) gave the students a sense of what it means to be a professional musician.

We funded those musicians with a grant from the Orange County Community Foundation's Robert J. and Doreen D. Marshall Fund for Dramatic Arts and Classical Music. That grant also helped pay for the scholarships. The rest of our funding comes from our annual Harmony Under the Stars benefit show at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, the surplus revenue we generate with our chorus performances, and many donations. Thanks to all of our generous contributors. With your help we are reaching a lot of kids and changing a lot of lives.



2016 Southern California Novice Quartet Champion "Nothing Rhymes with Orange". From left: Tenor Timothy Coleman, Baritone Adam Rooney, Lead Devin Ricklef, and Bass Alan Rodrguez

"BOTM" continued from page 5

Barbershopper Of The Month For March

At our April 19th rehearsal **Mike Werner** received the **Barbershopper Of The Month** award from **Ken Klein**.

Mike was given this award as recognition for his willingness to "step up" and become **Program VP** when **Don Derler** had to "step down" because Don had "too much on his plate" temporarily.

In addition, Mike was lauded for his many years of service with the OEC.

Congratulations, Mike!





April's Barbershopper Of The Month

Dave Orosco received the *Barbershopper Of The Month* award from **Don Derler** (in his new "Sugar Daddy" shirt!) at our May 17th rehearsal.

Dave received this award as a relatively new "rookie" to our chapter. He has "jumped into our Chorus with both feet." He has brought in several visitors already and has taken an active role in recording music CD's. His musical background has been a big help – perhaps giving him a big head start!

Congratulations, Dave!

Disassociated Musings



Joan Golding Photo

By Mark Logan

The mind works in very mysterious ways, especially mine. At the risk of becoming a professional case study for **Jim Gruver**, I thought I might try to articulate some of my rather random thoughts relating to singing barbershop. It may be cathartic, at

least for me. These are thoughts and observations which occasionally rattle around in my brain and I think it might be good to put them in writing and maybe excise them from my disassociated musings. Kind of a written exorcism, of sorts.

In my younger years, (much younger years), I was an erstwhile athlete. Things my coaches would repeatedly emphasize in an attempt to improve athletic performance are very similar, and sometimes identical, to things which our director, **Craig Ewing**, continually tries to impress upon us. One thing a coach told me many times was, "Practice doesn't make perfect. *Perfect* practice makes perfect." Another saying I recall a coach trying to beat into us was, "Practice makes permanent, so practice doing the right thing the right way and you will be more apt to perform correctly in competition". Sound familiar? Recall Craig saying that we should always practice the way we want to perform so that we will automatically sing that way during the performance?

I know in sports, visualization is really an important training method. The concept of visualizing mechanics of movements such as throwing, jumping, running, etc. is integral in training from the youngest novice to the consummate professional athlete. If you practice visualizing the movements, efforts, timing and other mechanics in your mind, it can really improve the actual athletic proficiency. I know most of us have heard the saying, "Be the ball," used in reference to throwing a baseball or football or hitting a golf ball. I never associated the visualization training method with learning to sing and improvement of singing abilities until I started singing with the chorus. I've got to be honest and admit that many of the visualization techniques Craig has used have not always registered, especially for the first few years of singing with the chorus. I tend to be a little slow picking some things up. The example of sound coming out the top of your head like a chimney didn't really register. Nor did the description and action of actually pulling the sound from my forehead with my hand. (I have often been accused throughout my life of pulling things from another area of my body, though).

However, some of the visualization examples he has used really have resonated, (no pun intended). Singing "forward" or getting a "ping" in the sound and describing how it should focus out in front of your head, the sound projecting out even with the stems of your glasses and many of the other numerous descriptive visualizations Craig uses have helped me understand how to place my sound and hopefully, sing better. **Tom** having us place the back of our hand on our cheeks has demonstrably made an impact on the quality of our singing. Dave Lowerre actually gave me one to help me sing higher and easier sounds by saying that it should feel like you are floating your upper back molars. It's strange conceptually, but it helped. Some of the visualization techniques which didn't make sense when I first heard them later made sense - sort of like an epiphany. You know, that "Oh, yeah" moment when something finally clicks and makes sense. And I like the way Craig uses all the different learning approaches of both visual and auditory techniques as well as using the rational explanation and also keeps changing them, approaching with different examples to explain the concepts. Some of these things have finally penetrated and helped me, and I think many of us, understand how to better sing. Keep it up Craig, sometimes it really works!

One thing with which I have to continually struggle, which I doubt anyone else in the chorus has to contend with, is overcoming stringent conditioning during my youth by my mother. My dear mother was a college English professor who taught into her 80's. Living under her constant tutelage was like having a constant tutor. From an early age and continuing into adulthood, if I would make an error in grammar, syntax or pronunciation, she would immediately correct me. If I left the obligatory note explaining where I had gone after school, I would often return to find it with corrections - in red ink! I probably can no longer diagram a sentence even if my life depended on it, but because of my mother's constant corrections, I almost always speak in the King's proper English. So, when I am singing songs which are not phrased grammatically correctly, I have a default that corrects them. For instance, in the song "Coney Island Baby," a phrase is "Some girl that's got big feet". Grammatically, it should be "Some girl who's got big feet". I know, Craig, that you have repeatedly taught us that we don't sing words; we sing word sounds. I get it, but I have gotten a life of early indoctrination to overcome and it is automatic. I just have to try extra hard to sing it as written, even if grammatically incorrect.

Well, enough musing for now. My mind seems less crowded now after ridding it of these random thoughts, although it may have seemed a criminal waste of your time to read them. Thankfully, my actions do not constitute any criminal activity – at least not yet.

The Harmony Platoon Gamble in Vegas



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Hansen, aka, "ole blue eyes"

The Harmony Platoon was alive and well again at the recent FWD SE/SW division contest in "lost wages..." I mean Las Vegas. And while there was no official gambling going on at the *Alexis Resort*, no craps or poker tables, and no one-armed bandits, etc. another

"game of chance" was going on in the resort salons on Thursday and Friday prior to the regular chorus and quartet contests.

As you know from my ramblings in previous Clippin's, the Harmony Platoon contest is open to any barbershopper willing to learn four new songs and come well prepared to sing "with a full deck" in randomly selected quartets with three other guys from the FWD. So your chances of winning one of the three rounds of competition are really based on "the luck of the draw" from the approximately 40+ guys that showed up to participate. If you "draw a good hand," with three other guys who have truly learned the songs and also sing well, you might "hit the jackpot." If not, you can easily "go bust," and then "cash in your chips." I was fortunate in the second round to be singing with **Barry** and **Scott** a tenor and bari from South Bay, and Roger, a bass from Pal Pac who all knew their parts well and we took first place out of nine quartets. In some of the rounds, we suspected that a few of the quartets might be a "stacked deck." One "dealer" with a "poker face" was using a "slight of hand" to pick the names for the quartets. He actually used a "deck of cards," with our names on the back to make the draw.

All in all, we had a lot of fun with our fellow platooners, singing the four songs: "*I Don't Know Why,*" "*The Little Boy,*" "*I'm Feelin' Fine,*" and "*I Didn't Want to Fall.*" So if you want to learn some great new songs, don't be a "joker" and "take a chance." Join the next *Harmony Platoon* with a lot of great guys from around the FWD who all enjoy singin' "the ole songs."



What about singing?

(Author unknown)

We can sing our cares away easier than we can reason them away. Sing in the morning. The birds are the earliest to sing, and birds are more without care than anything else that I know of. Sing in the evening. Singing is that last thing that robins do. When they have done their daily work; when they have flown their last flight, and picked up their last morsel of food, then on a topmost twig, they sing one song of praise. Oh, that we might sing morning and evening, and let song touch song all the way through.

Don't let the song go out of your life Though it chance sometimes to flow In a minor strain; it will blend again With the major tone you know.

What though shadows rise to obscure life's skies, And hide for a time the sun, The sooner they'll lift and reveal the rift, If you let the melody run.

Don't let the song go out of your life; Though the voice may have lost its trill, Though the tremulous note may die in your throat,

Let it sing in your spirit still.

Don't let the song go out of your life; Let it ring in the soul while here; And when you go hence, twill follow you thence, And live on in another sphere.



Howdy, Hello, and a hardy Hi,



Don Derler Photo

By Dave Orosco

As the newest member of the *Orange Empire Chorus* I was prompted by my Barbershop mentor to write an article for the "Clippins" publication. So let me climb on my soapbox and get this show on the road.

David Orosco (that's me) was

born on Camp Pendleton, Naval Hospital in 1967. My family soon relocated to Gulfport, Mississippi where I learned nursery rhymes, Motown Music, and a healthy southern drawl. A few years later we moved to Santa Ana, California where my musical journey began when I joined the choir in junior high and then later in high school. My choir director, **Bryan Beavers**, taught me that singing didn't have to stop after school and inspired me to try my hand at singing in rock bands.

Another interest I had was the sport of wrestling. I started in 5th grade in an after school program, wrestled in high school, a season in college. One of my coaches asked me to assist and this led to coaching at; *Anaheim, Loara, Fullerton, Troy, and Mater Dei High School* for a total of 21 years. I moved on to different high schools after helping to build a winning program. This type of challenge had always proved very satisfying to me. I suppose this is where the nickname "Coach Dave" most likely came from, or perhaps it reflects the airline tickets I usually purchased, who knows for sure?

After high school I began taking vocal classes at Fullerton College and then some guitar lessons as well. With a love for many types of music such as Big Band, Rockabilly, Blues, Western Swing, and 50's, I joined the newly formed band called *"The Rockabillys"* and sang Elvis, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, and other 50's favorites. True to my obsessive nature I dug into doing whatever would help make *"The Rockabillys"* have some degree of success. By the end of the first year, we had 6 social media outlets, T-Shirts, Stickers, CD's, illuminated Stage Signage, 4 entire song sets, and we played weekly. After a while we settled on 1-2 times a month playing city events, private parties, and car shows.

To eek out a living, I've worked the past 23 years as a plant expert and Social Media associate for The Home Depot. I even managed to learn some home improvement stuff too. It's not extravagant, but it pays the bills.

Over the years I became acquainted with **Jimmy Eacret** at *Orvac Electronics* due to his helpful nature and my hair brained electrical projects. He had occasionally invited me

to see the *Orange Empire Chorus* shows in the past and I'd invite him to see my band perform (of course neither of us ever made it to see each other's performances).

This past November Jimmy called me up and invited me to an Orange Empire Chorus practice to sing some Christmas music. This venture sounded innocent enough and I agreed... besides, what harm could come of singing a few lines of Jingle Bells right?...famous last words.

When I cautiously walked into the rehearsal room that first Tuesday it seemed very confusing with lots of activities going on and overly friendly strangers introducing themselves as I walked in. I didn't know a soul there and was about to leave when I ran into **Jimmy Eacret**. He introduced me to a few members and I decided to stay a little longer.

The Chorus' inside jokes and quick wit kept my attention. However, it was the director, **Craig Ewing**, who demonstrated competency in musical knowledge and a style of sharing stories to help illustrate points that made for a fruitful learning experience. Toward the end of the practice there was a break with some of the guys singing in bunches, there was laughter, I was a bit confused, but intrigued. By the end of the rehearsal I sorta was sad it ended. What had just happened?

The next Tuesday I showed up to rehearsal and got cornered by a gentleman known as "**Woody**" to find out where I best fit in the chorus with my voice. I thought to myself, "My good man, I'll have you know that I'm the lead singer in a well known local band, and blah blah etc".

Well, I soon found out that I didn't know what I didn't know. My years of crooning on stage and screaming into a mic didn't prepare me as much as I had hoped. The pace of the chorus was a bit faster than I was used to, there were more rules to singing Barbershop than a Presbeterian rummage sale, not to mention a lot of these guys could sing really good! I was very humbled.

The sound of the four-part harmony sparked my interest almost immediately. The depth and harmonics were big, complex, and satisfying. I wanted to find out more about this "Barbershop Harmony" style but didn't know who or what to even ask. My only experience was watching the *Daper Dans* Barbershop Quartet at Disneyland a few times.

Thankfully one chorus member by the name of **Hershel Green** sorta took me under his wing and I closely listened to him sing the notes as I followed along in a guest song-book that was missing the music of some of the songs that everyone was singing, but I didn't care. This is when it all started to get fun.

After this rehearsal I was invited to the "afterglow" at Larry's Pizza. The "afterglow" is where the guys sang lots of songs, drank beer, and ate pizza. I was hooked! Needless to say I wrestled with the idea of; do I have enough time to pursue this?, how long is it going to take me to get good? and what if (insert 100 things that might never happen here).

In my 48 years of life I've learned that life is short, best not wait on the what-ifs. So after an audition, the powers that be saw fit to allow me to join The Orange Empire Chorus. (somebody told me they flipped a coin 3 times).

Through the Internet, I found lots of information about other Barbershop Quartets and Chorus's that have crowning achievements in the near vicinity. Usually I am very competitive by nature, but the comradery, leadership, and the personal challenge of learning Barbershop Harmony has seemingly made this particular chapter the perfect fit for me.

Although I've only been attending the rehearsals since this past November, and officially become a member a short while now, I know when something is good. From what I can tell so far, the Barbershop Harmony Society culture as demonstrated by the Orange Empire Chorus is; fun, goofy, and at times odd. However in that same breath it can be; noble, challenging, and even very rewarding. How is that possible? I hope to never find out for sure but to just enjoy it.

What I do know is, those weekly stories recanted in rehearsals as well as hearing of personal losses, challenges, and triumphs have shown me that the magic of Barbershop is the members "sharing every smile and tear". Who knows? with some practice and luck, I may just be able to join a quartet.

So now let me climb down from that proverbial soapbox. Oh yeah, before I forget, I had a ton-o-fun at the Fistful of Spaghetti melodrama show. I can't wait till the next show!

You'll excuse me now as I stop typing, I've gotta grab my sheet music, water bottle, and get to rehearsal.

Respectfully Yours, "Coach" Dave Orosco

Editorial Musings

By Don Derler, Publisher/Editor

Sorry this issue is so late. I'm running a little short on time lately. I don't have much space here so I only want to say one thing. We really need to start recruiting new members and retaining existing members. If you have any suggestions, please have a talk with any

of the Board members.

Clippin's Publishing & Policy Information

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Fullerton Chapter SPEBSQSA Mission Statement

To enhance the enjoyment of music in the barbershop style for our chapter members and our audiences by always singing well and being entertaining; to participate in both quartet and chorus singing as a means of experiencing the thrill of barbershop singing and helping others to do the same; to actively support Society and District efforts to perpetuate our art form; to warmly welcome other singers into our musical fellowship; to contribute to the cultural quality of our communities through our charitable activities and youth harmony programs; and to have fun doing all of this.



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CHORUS CALENDAR Recurring Dates

- The **ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS** meets each Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. at the Fullerton High School Choir Room, 201 East Chapman Ave. Fullerton CA.
- The **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meets at 7:00 P.M. - the 4th Monday of the month, at the home of Steve Serandis, 1451 West James Way, Anaheim. All members are welcome
- The **MUSIC COMMITTEE** meets the third Tuesday of the month, after rehearsal.
- **HARMONY FOR LUNCH BUNCH** meets each Friday at around 11:30 A.M. at **Giovanni's Pizza.** Southeast corner of Euclid & Williamson in Fullerton. (One block south of Commonwealth.)

We meet Tuesdays, 7:00pm at Fullerton High School Choir Room At back of Plummer Auditorium 201 East Chapman Ave. (Corner of Chapman & Lemon)

Guests Are Always Welcome!

24-hour Barbershop Hotline: 714-871-7675 (Art Clayton) Visit us at www.oechorus.org

Chartered July 1957 Home of the ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS

Craig Ewing, Musical Director

Associate Directors Tom Nichols, Dennis Woodson





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