



Barbershop Clippin's

Far Western District Barbershop Harmony Society

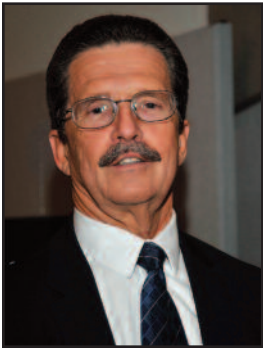
Fullerton, California Chapter



First Quarter - 2017

Awards and Installation Banquet

by Mark Logan



Joan Golding Photo

The annual Awards and Installation Banquet was held at the Fullerton Elk's Club on Saturday, January 28. Festivities began at 6:00 with the social hour followed by dinner. All the men were dressed in coats and ties, except for **Mike Evans** who actually exceeded the dress code for the evening by wearing his tuxedo, looking very sharp and putting the rest of us to shame. The women were dressed in all their finery and added some much needed beauty and class to the evening. The ceremonies started after dessert with **Woody Woodson** being the Master of Ceremonies again this year. Woody did another great job, being very entertaining and keeping the program moving. We were all entertained by the *Sugar Daddies* and *Preferred Mix* quartets.

Our esteemed director, **Craig Ewing** presented awards for various categories. He presented the *Rookie of the Year* award to two new members: **Ned Beadel** and **Alex Gomez** are the 2016 Rookies of the Year. Craig also presented the *Shooting Star Award* to **Dave Orosco**. **Bobby Faris** received the



Rupert Hall Award which he so richly deserved for all the hard work he does for our chapter. **Butch Melberg** was presented the President's Award by **Pete Suputo** for all he has contributed and for being such a willing and tireless worker. The award for the *Orange Blossom of the Year* was

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Our Heroes... Steve Sarandis, Steve Hansen, Tom Nichols, Rick Contributors DeLung, Dave Orosco, Joan Golding, Mark Logan, to this issue: Jay Campbell, Craig Ewing

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presented by **Terri Derler** to **Janet Bratton**. *The Orange Blossom Special Award* was presented to **Kelly DeLung** by **Sheila Lowerre**. The award for *Quartet of the Year* was presented to the *Spit-Tunes*. For some inexplicable reason which nobody has been able to figure out, I received the *Barber Shopper of the Year Award*.

The awards segment was followed by the swearing in, (not at), of the Board of Directors for OEC for the 2017 term. **Woody Woodson** conducted the official swearing in of the officers. The OEC Chapter Board members for 2017 are:

- President: **Steve Hansen**
- Immediate Past President: **Pete Saputo**
- Secretary: **Steve Sarandis**
- Treasurer: **Jay Campbell**
- P.R. Officer: **Don Derler**

- VP Member/Chapter Development: **Hershel Green**
- VP Music/Performance: **Dave Lowerre**
- VP Program: **Don Derler**
- VP Youth In Harmony: **Tom Nichols**
- VP Webmaster: **Mike Evans**
- Members at Large: **Jimmie Eacret**
Dave Orosco
Mac McDougal
- Member At Large Emeritus: **Dick Cote**
- Chorus Manager: **Mark Logan**

The event was concluded by Craig directing the entire chorus in singing several songs to cap the evening. It was a very enjoyable event. Special thanks goes to **Joan Golding** who captured some great pictures of the banquet festivities.



The Continued MisAdventures of Pretzel the Clown



By Rick DeLung

Ahoy Mates! It is currently 3:22 AM and I am going through another bout of “I can’t sleep because I have something on my mind and need to get it out”. So, here I type away!

We have our upcoming show in just about three weeks and I have been going over some of the minor details that need to be covered and filled before the proverbial curtain rises! Now, on my many occasions I have asked myself what part of the show I am considered. I know in the past, I have had something to do with the concept of the show, the writing/co-writing of a script, the production of the show, the staging, the blocking, the finding of props, a Tenor and occasional Lead and seller of tickets.

Now admittedly, I will say that I am not the ONLY one of these positions, but on occasion have been a player of standards in each position. There are many others who have done much more in each aspect of the production, and to these men/women I am eternally grateful.

If I had to pick my favorite job, it would have to be a “Producer” of the show! If any of you have never seen the Mel Brooks’ masterpiece, “The Producers” you need to see it! There is something about being behind the scenes, making sure that things are happening: a script written, the sets created, the actors given their directions, and then . . . the

ACTUAL show! It is a thrill that I cannot properly describe! (The only difference of note, is that I DON’T want the show to fail! I want it to make money!)

The problem is . . . the shows come to an end! And, inevitably . . . about 3 – 5 minutes before the final song is sung, it hits me like a ton of bricks! This show is about to come to an end! You can almost see it in my face, as the “realization” of the finale is about to happen! I feel a sincere and deep sadness. Not that I don’t feel a feeling of accomplishment as well, but the ending of every production that we have performed is always so sad for me. I continually tease my lovely partner/best friend Kelley, about how she would cry when her favorite TV shows would come to an end. She has done this her entire life! The credits roll on Lassie . . . and the tears start to flow! I guess that same phenomenon hits me as well! I’m sad to see it go!

So, what I need to do now is focus in on the joys and pleasures that I get from doing the pre-show portions: the writing/re-writing of the script . . . the learning of new songs for the show . . . the learning of the lines . . . the rehearsing of the staging and dialogue. . . and yes . . . the final curtain call (which has to be taught at dress rehearsal on the stage! It’s bad luck to practice the final finale NOT on the stage!) And what do I ask of you, my fellow barbershop brothers: Do the same as I. Enjoy the pleasure of making the audience laugh, hear their applause when we ring a chord or two, and watch them smile as they see people they know, love and maybe even DON’T know, come to life right in front of their very eyes on stage on April 8, 2017. Plus sell a ticket or two!

Until next time . . . Keep on smiling!



Open letter to the Orange Empire Chorus.

As I sat perusing my latest issue of the Harmonizer, I discovered we have lost two memorable members of our Chapter, **Ray Ashcroft** and **Fred Robirds**. While I knew of Fred’s illness, I had not heard of his passing. First, I would like to express my condolences to **Mary Ruth Ashcroft** and **Vi Robirds**. Throughout my years in the chapter I have enjoyed their company, and was helped by both men. Since Ray and I usually sang tenor, we were rarely in a quartet together. He was a great public relations person for the chapter and helped me out when I was President. Fred also helped me a great deal

as our perennial Sunshine Chairman and Man About Town Roving Reporter for the Clippins’. In addition to many years of singing “Valentines” with Fred, we were in several quartets together, (always changing our name to protect the guilty.) Ray and Fred’s contributions to the chapter and the members of the chapter will be greatly missed. I know the Chapter will continue, and I hope some of our newer members I have been reading about will step up into those positions. After all, Fullerton Chapter is and will always be “Number FUN!”

Leonard Schlatter
Mount Juliet, TN

No Time for Hibernation



By Tom Nichols

Our high school barbershoppers have had a busy winter. We sent about 60 students to *Diva Day* and *Young Men's Harmony Festival* at Orange Coast College in February. These are one-day harmony camps put on by the *Harborlites Sweet Adeline chorus* and the *Masters of Harmony*. This is a great way to introduce young people to barbershop.

They learn to sing three barbershop songs and perform them on stage with world-class choruses. They come back to school full of enthusiasm for barbershop.

These events also kicked off the year for several established high school barbershop groups, quartets *Glasses Half Full* and *Raising the Bar*, and the *No No Nonette* chorus, all from *La Habra High School*. They got a chance to perform for their peers, and both quartets performed on the night show.

But that was just the beginning. Both quartets were excited to get their first paid gigs recording a song for the demo tape of a new musical, *FrankenSTOMP* by Georg Finder, scheduled to premier in September. They recorded a barbershop version of the show's theme song, "Squeaky Shoes".

Glasses Half Full also competed in a *Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA) Solo and Ensemble festival*, won a superior rating, and will compete again at the next level of competition. After their comedic take on "The New Ashmolean Marching Society", the judge held them up as an example to the other students of how to communicate with the audience. "Did you sing as well as you wanted to? No? It didn't matter. Did you do all your moves perfectly? No? It didn't matter. I could tell right away that you were here to do comedy, and you accomplished what you came here to do." *Glasses Half Full* also took first place in the *Southern California Novice Quartet Contest* put on by the *Orange Quartet Chapter*. In second place was *Nothing Rhymes with Orange*, a quartet from *Fullerton Union High School*.

The No No Nonette, a nine-girl chorus, performed at La Habra High School's *Java Lounge* concert, singing "It's a Good Day". This chorus is a quartet incubator – four of its members formed the quartet *Raising the Bar*. Other members have been improving their barbershopping skills and may eventually join quartets.

It has been a busy time, but I like working with high school students - they learn so quickly. In their few short years in high school, I see them master new musical skills, learn to deal with both successes and disappointments, and mature toward adulthood. High school ends all too soon, but I know they take with them a love of harmony that will last a lifetime.



Glasses Half Full Wins Superior Rating at SCVA competition



Glasses Half Full Wins Southern California Novice Quartet Contest



Nothing Rhymes with Orange Places Second in California Novice Quartet Contest



No No Nonette Sings at La Habra High School Java Lounge Concert

A Very Enjoyable Valentines



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Hansen,
aka, "ole blue eyes"

It's great to be a barbershopper anytime but especially while delivering singing Valentines! The look of surprise on the recipients' faces along with the smiles of joy and sometimes tears of happiness is often beyond description. Needless to say, *Preferred Mix* enjoyed a fun

filled two days of delivering singing valentines on February 13 and 14 all over Orange County and in some sections of LA County as well.

Most of our deliveries were to individual sweethearts, recipients young and old in a variety of locations including businesses, fitness centers, malls, homes, schools, and even a bowling alley! Some deliveries included larger groups in school classrooms, assisted living facilities and a half hour Valentine performance for the *Ebell Club* in Santa Ana.

One of our most fun experiences included surprising **Larry Ray's** wife, **Sheila** at 7:30 am while she was working out at the *Crunch Gym in Diamond Bar* on Valentine Day. She was a little embarrassed but pleased at first to hear us singing to her while she was riding the life cycle. Then she was so excited to see Larry arrive by surprise, present her with a bouquet of flowers, then tag me out and join the quartet to sing to her a couple more songs. Sheila was indeed very happy! Larry had pre-planned it all and *Preferred Mix* was glad to oblige!

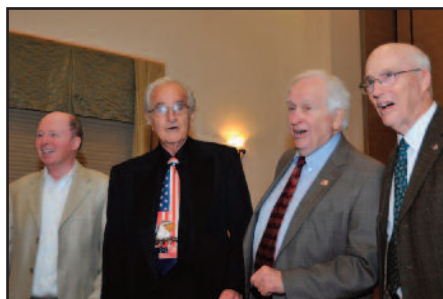
Other fun experiences included singing for my wife, **Cheri**, while she was leading a group of 3rd graders on a tour of the *Heritage House at the Cal State Fullerton Arboretum*. I think that the 3rd graders enjoyed our singing as much as she did. And, finally, we were very well received by Mr. Stolz 6th grade class at *Rolling Hills Elementary School* in Fullerton. The look on the students' faces seemed to say, "boy, those ole guys can really sing!"

All in all, *Preferred Mix* shared a very enjoyable Valentine season. It's great fun to share the uniqueness of barbershop close harmony. Looking forward to many more Valentine Days, singin' "the ole songs!"



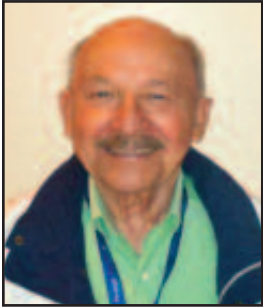
The Installation & Awards Banquet in Pictures

Joan Golding Photos





Glasses Half Full Were Enough To Win!



By Jay Campbell

On Saturday evening, February 25th, the *55th Annual Southern California Novice Quartet Contest* was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Fullerton. It was hosted and sponsored by the *Orange Quartet Chapter* and many members of the *Orange Empire Chorus* were there (of

course, some of us are dual members of both chapters). There were only six quartets competing this year. Although the Fellowship Hall provided a great venue, there was less than a “Standing Room Only” audience.

I had been asked by **Mark Sheldon** to be the Contest Administrator, so Mary and I planned to be there about 6:00pm. Then I was asked to provide transportation for the **Gassman Brothers** (John and Larry), who were to be the emcees for the show and who live near my home, so I had to leave a little earlier to pick them up and Mary drove over later.

Dave Orosco provided the sound system for the quartets. The Music Judge was **Nick Papageorge**, the Performance Judge was **Steve Katz** and the Singing Judge was **Dave Tautkus**. **Craig Ewing**, director of the OEC, was there as a spectator (and to represent the Far Western District, Board of Directors, in his position as VP of Music and Performance).

My job, as the Contest Administrator, was to take the ballots from the 3 Judges after each quartet finished their songs and enter the scores into the database on Mark’s laptop. The handicaps of each quartet had already been entered and the net score for each quartet was then automatically computed, along with its numerical ranking.

When all was set and the volunteers (members and “Orange Blossoms”) had everything ready, **Mike Werner** took the podium to introduce the program. The *Fullertones* (Jim Gruver, David Orosco, Butch Melberg and Ned Beadel, from the Fullerton Chapter), by the luck of the draw, were the first to perform. Although they were in first place for several minutes, they ended up placing fourth for the evening.

John and Larry Gassman took the podium between performances to provide the audience with a running dialogue while the next quartets were coming on stage. Their most memorable skit – at least for me - was “*Who’s on First...*”

The second quartet to perform was *Overnight* (Brandon McNabb, Garrison Holder, Nicholas Bratcher and David Vorobyov,

from the Santa Fe Springs, Westminster, Brea and Frank Thorne Chapters). They took first place for a while, but ended up in second place for the evening.

Close Shave (Don Thomas, Mark Logan, Stan Tinkle and Paul Sandorff, from the Orange Quartet Chapter) was the third quartet. They were in third place for a while, but ended up as number 5 eventually.

The fourth quartet to compete was *Nothing Rhymes With Orange* (Timothy Coleman, Devin Ricklef, Adam Rooney and Alan Rodriguez – a High School quartet sponsored by the Fullerton Chapter and coached by **Tom Nichols**). They would end up in third place for the night.

Glasses Half Full was the fifth quartet (Jaysson Yriarte, Mark Halsig, Justin Gabriel and Andy Au – another High School quartet sponsored by the Fullerton Chapter and coached by **Tom Nichols**). They were the audience’s favorite with their funny – if not hilarious – antics, and they also sang well. They scored 365 and took the trophy as the best quartet of the evening.

The last quartet to perform was *Orange-A-Peel* (Don Thomas, Gerald Fleischmann, Stan Tinkle and Mike Werner of the Orange Chapter). They ended up with sixth place.

After completing my tally of the scores, I took over the podium to announce the third-, second- and first-place winners (in that order). A brief awards ceremony followed, with the presentation of the Trophy and

awards for second and third place. Many of us then adjourned to Larry’s Pizza & Sports Parlor for the “Afterglow,” where we sang and took nourishment.

Dropping off the Gassman Brothers at their home was my last task for the day. It was a real privilege to get to know them a little better, even though I had to constantly remind John that I would do the driving, while he would do the navigating (ha, ha!). I’m now looking forward to next year’s Novice Quartet Contest....hope to see more of you there!





Glasses Half Full



Orange-A-Peel



Overnight



Nothing Rhymes with Orange



Fullertones



Close Shave



Is It Over Already?



By Tom Nichols

Thanks to everyone who helped with singing valentines:

- **Sheila Lowerre**, who offers up her house as Valentine Central, picks up flowers daily and makes the bouquets, provides food for our lunches, answers the phone and solves problems on the spot

Joan Golding Photo

the bouquets

- **Jay Campbell**, who enters all of the orders into the scheduling program and handles the money

- **Art Clayton**, who makes and receives hundreds of phone calls to sell the orders

- All of the singers from the *Orange Empire Chorus*, the *Orange Quartet Chapter*, and the *Masters of Harmony* who deliver the singing valentines

This year we delivered 125 singing valentines plus-or-minus – less than last year, but as long as we are having fun doing it, I think that’s OK. OCQ and MoH delivered about 30 between them, mostly on Valentines Day, and we should be glad to have their help. We need more quartets if we want to deliver more valentines.

Art has announced his intention to retire from phone sales. That means that we will need to pick up the slack starting next year. With this year’s phone-a-thon at Giovanni’s we got a taste of what it takes to make those sales, and how hard Art has been working at it for the last 20-some years. The good news is that we can spread the work among many hands so that no one will be overburdened with it.

I had quite a time with the scheduling app this year. You

would think that after writing a piece of software, getting it running, and working the bugs out, you would be done. Not so, when it depends on services like *Google Maps* that are constantly changing. I spent the first six weeks of the year working to catch up with changes in other services. By mid-February, I was still wrestling with a problem that made it difficult to update quartets’ delivery schedules during afternoons or evenings. I was feeling pretty stressed. Thanks to **Dave Lowerre** for pitching in to work with me on that. We finally discovered a potential work around. After trying that, we now have the software working again. So get out there and sell those valentines! Oh, is Valentines Day over already?

Despite the stress of the season, I had a great time delivering valentines. The *Sugar Daddies*’ last delivery was from a man to his wife at their home around dinner time. With the whole family listening we sang “Don’t Blame Me” as the lady dissolved in happy tears. For me, that’s what makes it all worth while.



Why do we like to sing?



by Steven Sarandis

First of all, singing is fun. I think it’s fun to ring chords. The feelings of ecstasy and the goose bumps I get when a good chorus or quartet rings a chord is something hard to describe. I’m sure many of you would agree with me after listening to an international quartet or chorus ringing a chord, especially singing the tag. Besides being entertaining, this is pure fun.

Joan Golding Photo

Singing lifts your spirits. Singing releases endorphins, which

make you feel instantly better. I heard a quote: “Music is

something that always lifts my spirits and makes me happy, and when I make music I always hope it will have the same effect on whoever listens to it.”

Singing helps me to relax. When you sing, you also release oxytocin, which is a natural stress reliever and is found to alleviate feelings of depression and loneliness. You will also sleep better from being less stressed.

Singing is a good-way to improve your feelings. These feelings include your well-being, feeling safe, and improving your confidence. All this because you are part of a group. It makes you part of something life-affirming. In addition, you’ll become a better listener when you sing with others.

Of course, we’ve heard all about how singing is healthy. Tests have shown that singing improves heart rate, which

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More Disassociated Musings



By Mark Logan

Joan Golding Photo

I guess it's time to come out of the closet and make the admission. Yes, as many of you who saw the "Logan's Heros" audition recently at our meeting may have observed, I am singing the bass part in that quartet.

I do like singing bass for several reasons: I tend to have a natural deep register. It often takes hours of singing for me to be able to hit the higher lead notes in many of the songs we sing. Another great advantage of singing bass is that my voice is already in great shape soon after I awake in the morning. It's been a lot of fun learning and singing a harmony part. I don't think I'm yet ready to quit singing the lead part with the chorus, but I will enjoy singing the bass part in this quartet, although for songs in which I already know the lead part, it can sometimes be confusing. (I know you are thinking that I am already easily confused – point well taken.)

For anyone who doesn't attend the *Harmony For Lunch Bunch* Friday gatherings at *Giovanni's* in Fullerton, you are missing a lot of fun. We sing a lot of the chorus songs that we don't routinely sing during our chapter rehearsals ("meetings" – sorry Dave). You'll hear a lot of other songs sung that you won't otherwise hear. There are also many experienced singers, (not necessarily older), who have a wealth of songs in their expanded repertoire that are great to listen to. **Stan Tinkle** usually brings some notebooks full of music that he distributes to help everyone learn new material. I have learned some great songs just from attending HFLB. I have also developed the dubious skill of being able to sing with my mouth half full of food and to chew and swallow at the

same time. I swear, I am absolutely convinced that **Dick Cote** waits until a take a bite full of food and then blows a pitch pipe to start a new song. It's insidious! People start arriving about 11:30 and singing starts at twelve noon sharp. You need to arrive fairly early to get a decent parking spot. Recently, **Craig Ewing** and the rest of the *Velvet Frogs* joined us and we were treated to a great and very entertaining performance. What a pleasure!

As some of you know, I regularly swim as part of an exercise program to try to stay healthy and maintain some semblance of shape. (Round is a shape, right?) While I was still working, I had to develop good time-use habits to efficiently utilize my time and try to get everything accomplished. Therefore, I developed the habit of practicing the new songs I am learning in my head while swimming laps, fitting the tempo in with the pace of the strokes. I can really get a taxing swim workout when practicing a faster tempo song. (Good thing we haven't learned a vocal version of "Flight Of The Bumble Bees"; it would probably have created a cardiac arrest!) This practice has been helpful in assisting me to efficiently budget my time and, although I have been retired for the last two years, I am still doing it. However, as some of you may have noticed, I have developed a sort of weird affectation in sometimes turning my head to the side when

I take a breath while singing. It could be worse; I could be churning my arms. (I solemnly promise I will never wear a Speedo swim suit to rehearsal or HFLB). Enough said. (Probably way too much.)



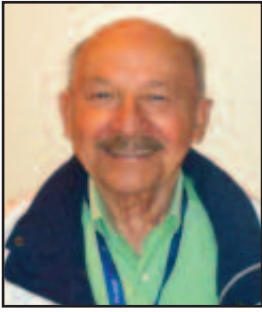
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reduces the risk of heart disease. And, when singing with someone else, your heart rates can even sync together. It's actually a good workout. You'll work out your lungs, improve your circulation, and tone your abdominal and intercostal muscles. You'll develop healthier breathing patterns, which can help cope with various lung diseases. And even if you're already sick, just hum a little number and you'll open up your sinuses and respiratory tubes. Singing also has been proven to boost your immune system. It's also really good for your brain and will enhance your mental awareness, concentration, and memory. It's been used as an all-natural

way to help treat dementia, lung cancer, depression, and chronic pain. You'll probably live longer, in general.

With singing, your posture will get straighter and you'll gradually look more confident. It's a natural beauty treatment. You will be able to express yourself. In addition, barbershop singing is totally eco-friendly. If you are currently singing, keep singing. If you're not singing, don't you think you should start? So raise your voice, because the benefits are endless.

Sing A Song Of Love – 125 Times!



by Jay Campbell

Early this year, **Art Clayton, Tom Nichols** and I began preparations for our annual Singing Valentines Program. We ordered a thousand flyers and 500 Singing Valentine cards and envelopes, we dusted off the old customer lists and Art began making

phone calls and taking orders.

Tom started developing the Quartet listings from members of the *Orange Empire Chorus*, the *Orange Quartet Chapter* and the *Masters of Harmony*. Since we didn't know if we could field enough quartets to handle all of the potential orders, we invited members of those choruses to join us, with the understanding that each member would "earn" \$8.00 for each order they delivered.

After the Awards and Recognition Banquet for the new Board of Directors was completed on January 28th, the Singing Valentines Program became our top priority.

Unfortunately, **Art Clayton** became ill with the flu and almost lost his voice about that point in time. Without his honey-smooth telephone voice and glib tongue, not to mention his fantastic memory, our telephone orders were going nowhere fast! Art is like "Walter Cronkite" to many of our regular customers... They love talking to Art and look forward to his call each year! Art recuperated after several days (Agonizing days for him and for us!) and orders started coming in again. A "Calling Party" was organized and several of our members manned the phones to "take up the slack" left by Art's illness.

Dave and Sheila Lowerre graciously allowed us to use their home as "Singing Valentine Central" again this year. Sheila took on the challenge of providing the "single rose bouquets" for us. With some guidance from **Vi Robirds**, who can no longer be our "Rose Queen", Sheila ordered the roses, ribbons, water tubes, cellophane, etc. She recruited other "Orange Blossoms" (**Cheri Hansen** and **Sandy Sarandis**) to help prepare the bouquets as Valentine's Day approached.

We were to sell Singing Valentines from February 10th to 15th, so on February 8th "Valentine Central" started operating at the Lowerre's home and the scheduling of the orders was started by **Tom Nichols** and Sheila. I was the "data entry person", logging the new orders into the "Google Cloud" that Tom had created for our computer network. Unfortunately for me this year, my personal laptop had crashed, so I did most of the data entry from my home desktop. That meant a lot of trips to Art's house to pick up new orders, go home and then enter them into the "cloud" so Sheila and Tom could plug them into his scheduling program. I also had to make numerous trips to "Valentine Central" to help with other tasks.

Somehow – and with a lot of effort on everybody's part – we managed to make our system work well enough to deliver 125 Singing Valentines this year. Although we had hoped to deliver at least 200 orders, we can rest easy knowing that we made a few bucks and had a lot of fun making a lot of surprised recipients happy!

My heartfelt thanks to all the singers who made this happen! We couldn't have done it without you!

We're going to be busy!

May 12-13 • SE/SW Division Contest

May 29 • Memorial Day Celebration - Harbor Lawn

June 11 • Nixon Library

June 21 • Day of Music - Downtown Fullerton

August 31 • Muckenthaler Performance

VOICE: THE MENTAL INSTRUMENT



Joan Golding Photo

By Craig Ewing

The human voice is the most complex and flexible of all instruments. Every instrument creates sound using an ACTUATOR (the source of power), VIBRATOR (turns energy into sound waves), and RESONATORS (increases intensity, changes tone quality, or both). Only the vocalist can use voluntary and involuntary

muscles to adjust the actuator (air flow), vibrators (vocal folds) and resonators (larynx, pharynx, mouth, and nasal cavities) in unlimited combinations.

Notice the involuntary. You have no direct control over the muscles that adjust the voice box, yet you can think a pitch and the note you choose comes out. Yes, the Harold Hill “think system” from THE MUSIC MAN works !

Often the singer is less successful because they try to control muscles. Will lifting your chin help you sing a high

note, or tucking your chin help a low note ? No, it just creates tension and makes it harder.

A great singer believes in the unlimited. They grasp that singing soft does not mean breathy, swallowed, or less intense, while singing loud does not mean harsh, nasal, or lacking vocal freedom. All of those are an option, but usually not the artistic effect that will be the best gift to the listener.

The mixing board graphic shows some of the options available to any note or phrase you sing. As you practice (short sessions several times a day), try different combinations on many places in your tessitura (pitch range). WARNING: The last 5 controllers should almost always be minimized.

Listen to your favorite singers; superstars like Barbra Streisand and Frank Sinatra take advantage of all these options to create different colors for interest and excitement. You can enthral your audience by having command of these tools, so train your mind. Where the mind goes the voice will follow

AIR SPEED	PLACEMENT	PITCH	VOWEL	FORMANT	ARTICULATION
BRIGHTNESS	LIFT	COLOR	TIMBRE	NASALITY	ENUNCIATION
INTENSITY	VIBRATO	FREEDOM	TESSITURA	EMOTION	PRONUNCIATION
AMPLITUDE (VOLUME)	BODY TENSION	GLOTTAL PRESSURE	TONGUE TENSION	NECK COMPRESSION	HEAD LIFT

The Making of a Barbershop Quartet



By David Orosco

Howdy fellow Barbershoppers and music lovers near and far. First off, don't let the title of this article indicate your humble writer knows much about this thing called "Barbershop Harmony". However, allow me to tell you a tale about four lads from the *Orange Empire Chorus* who decided to give it a go. So grab a

coffee or whatever beverage suits you, and read on.

In the beginning of my journey (a whopping 1 year ago), singing in the chorus was great and I never dreamed of wanting to be a goofy cartoon character of whomever, singing in a quartet making a fool of myself (famous last words).

The challenge of learning how to sing the right notes and lyrics to all the songs the Chorus was working on at the moment was more than enough for me. Coupled with the polecat program run by our very own **Tom Nichols**, all was well in the world.

I recall, my first official performance with the chorus seeing the *Velvet Frogs* perform. Their precise harmonies caught my ear, but their baritone **CJ Sams** caught my attention when he engaged the crowd in a vaudeville-esque fashion. With corny jokes and walking through the audience I was intrigued. Interacting with an audience is a difficult quality that I really appreciate when seeing any kind of performance and so a seed was planted.

Sometime after a flyer announcing a "novice contest" was coming soon and what better way of getting this seed to grow than to try and start a novice quartet to enter the contest?

Now it seems the gentlemen in the chorus are for the most part in accordance with the 4th code of Barbershop ethics "We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonize." Well, two out of three ain't bad.

Now all that was left was to volunteer singing in various quartets during our breaks to see if there were any other novice singers who shared a chemistry and willingness.

As a few weeks went by, the planets were aligned, and

it seemed there were some good prospects.

As most Barbershoppers know, a quartet consists of 1) a bass, hmm, **Butch Melberg** is new like me, and can sing pretty well. 2) A baritone (aka the very odd sounding harmony of the lead) **Ned Beadel** is new to the chorus and seems willing. 3) A lead, well, I'm one, I guess? and 4) a tenor, someone that can sing so high...only dogs and singing judges can hear. I recall **Jim Gruver** switching from bass to tenor, a feat I cannot understand. So I thought, lets see if these guys want to give it a go.

First I asked **Butch Melberg** and he looked at me puzzled and said, "I guess". Next I asked **Ned Beadel** and he happily said yes! Finally I asked **Jim Gruver** and he was more than happy to oblige.

We then took a spot in the hallway and sang our hearts out. Afterwards, my ears were ringing, but not the chords. What was wrong with this picture?... Oh yeah, we are novices and Barbershop Harmony is a demanding discipline when done correctly as I understand.



So we all agreed to meet before chorus rehearsals to see if we could work on this venture. We slowly had moments of decent singing, but it was still rough. To our amazement Ned had Barbershop and director experience and offered to coach the quartet. This could be the miracle I hoped for.

So far what I learned is that a Barbershop Quartet is a partnership and we needed to play on everyone's' strengths. Some of us are "hams" and others were kinda serious. The hams had to tone it down a bit and the serious guys had to loosen up and with some prodding we all did.

With only a couple of weeks before the novice contest we really needed to buckle down and Ned graciously offered to allow the quartet to meet at his home. Butch was a natural bass and his hard work was paying off. Ned our fearless leader, had experience and confidence and that showed. Jim could sing well and has a great ear and that showed. I worked obsessively and tried my best (plus I'm a ham and that showed.) With a lot of work on everyone's behalf, our sound really improved.

After a couple times singing in front of the chorus we gained a bit more confidence and practiced even more. With ringing chords instead of ringing cell phones, even the neighborhood dogs stopped howling. A couple of guys confided that they didn't know if they were singing up to

Continued from page 14

par with the other guys, well I assured them that if they weren't I wouldn't have considered them to sing with us in the first place. It's odd how we second-guess our gifts but still soldier on...now that takes guts.

The day of showtime was here and with our Las Vegas style sequin bowties and suspenders we were ready as we were going to be. Just our luck we were drawn out of a hat to go on first!... Yikes! Now I was getting nervous!

As we stood outside in the foyer waiting to be called on stage we heard the mic tester quartet singing; "Sweet and Lovely "... What huh?..." AGHH, that's what were singing!"... Ok, got to pull it together, I asked a couple of the guys if their loved ones were in the audience and they said, "No way. We asked them not to come cause we were too nervous." Those next seconds seemed like days.

Well our name was called and we walked on stage in our first performance as the "FULLERTONES". We sang our best and even with butterflies, it wasn't half bad. A small group of my friends showed up to lend their support and as I looked out in the audience, I could see fellow barbershoppers smiling and what could be construed as a proud look from our chorus director **Craig Ewing** (or maybe it was something else?) When we were done, I don't know exactly what that feeling was, but it was good.

When we left that stage I gained a new respect for Ned Beadel, Butch Melberg, and Jim Gruver for having the fortitude to get up on that stage as true fellow novices. At the conclusion we placed 4th out of 6 quartets. Not what we were working for, but at least an honest attempt. Lord willing and the creek don't rise this may be the start of something, but time will tell.

As I write this, the *Orange Empire Chorus* is preparing for our new show "Shipshape Barbershop" and it promises to be fun and entertaining to say the least. Afterwards, we can see about picking up where we left off. Enjoying the gift of singing...I think that's part of what life is about.

What a great adventure this was and is. Hopefully all that read this can share in this experience if they haven't already.

Sincerely Yours,

David Orosco

Valentine Singing Elixir?

By Mark Logan



Joan Golding Photo

Delivering singing valentines was loads of fun this year, even though we didn't deliver as many as past years. We tried everything from sending out fliers to calling past customers. I don't know what we can do to promote them more successfully. Perhaps people are less romantic today.

In any event, it was very enjoyable delivering the singing valentines. A good friend of mine purchased one for his two daughters who attend

Brea High School. They are both very active in the high school's singing programs. Delivery was scheduled during their chorus practice, which was in the basement of the theater on a stage area. The whole mixed chorus was there practicing. I have watched these student's performances for the last four years and they are very skilled and polished. They have an impressive Christmas performance and two other performances every year, as well as participating in organized performance competitions. They have recently won national competitions. Our delivery was a hit with the two girls and the whole chorus appreciated it. When we were leaving, another group of student singers who were coming from somewhere else stopped us and asked us to sing to them, which we did. They loved our two songs, (luckily, we had the time to sing). I made a pitch to the boys to remember barbershop singing for a hobby in the future.

I ended up delivering singing Valentines for four straight days, although the first three days were not full days. The fourth day was Valentine's Day, so we had a fairly busy day. Since this was also Tuesday, I had a quartet practice from 5:30 to about 6:45 which was then followed by a full chorus rehearsal.

For the first time since I joined the chorus, my voice began to fail. This was a concern since I was supposed to sing in a quartet with **Frank Flizar, Stan Haymaker** and **Greg Lewis** for a vocal group that Stan and Greg belong to in Laguna Woods. I really had a difficult time attempting to warm up my voice to prepare for this. I mentioned to the group before we began singing that this was the fifth day of singing for me and that my voice had been affected. Once we started singing, things went well and the members were very appreciative.

Before we left, the director approached me and suggested I get some slippery elm bark. He said it was an extract that he found effective for soothing a voice which has been over used. I stopped at a Mother's Market on the way home and inquired. A helpful young man said that it is very good for singers with a raspy throat and said his father uses it. He said there was a liquid extract and also tea with slippery elm in it. I got both and have used them. I actually put the extract in the tea. I'm not giving an endorsement, but just passing on the information. The tea is called "Throat Coat". If you ever have this problem, you might want to give it a try.



President's Corner



By Steve Hansen, President

2017 is well underway, and this year looks to be another exciting year for the *Orange Empire Chorus*. In January, thanks to the leadership and efforts of **Mark Logan** and **Jay Campbell**, we enjoyed a successful Awards and Installation Banquet. In February, our "Singing Valentines" program brought surprises of joy and happiness to many recipients throughout our community. We are now busy preparing for our annual musical comedy show, "ShipShape Barbershop," which is planned for April 8.

As your new President, at the A&I Banquet I outlined some goals and challenges for the 2017 that can be summed up as follows: **Sing Well, Share the Fun, and Perform with Personality**. Sing Well- We are fortunate to have an excellent director, **Craig Ewing**, and assistant directors, **Tom Nichols** and **Woody Woodson**. They encourage us to continue improving our singing technique and quality. They teach us many strategies for improvement in such areas as breathing techniques, holding phrases, forming vowels, staying on pitch, etc. As chorus members, we also need to challenge ourselves for continuous improvement. The better we sing the more fun we have! Sing well and ring those chords!!

We are the "number fun" chapter and the second challenge is to Share the Fun. We can share the fun in at least three areas. Membership- By continuing to bring in new members we share the fun with more men. Last year we brought in seven new members. Our goal for this 2017 is to recruit at least another seven members

or more. All of us should try to find a friend, coworker, etc. who likes to sing to attend one of our rehearsals and consider joining us. Actively encourage attendance at our performances-We can share the fun by striving for "sold out" performances and events. Of course we do advertise our performances with mailings, advertisements, social media, and phone banks, etc. However, our most success occurs when, in addition, each member actively promotes our events by handing out flyers, sending out e-mails and encouraging our networks of coworkers, friends, family and other acquaintances to attend our shows and events. A "full house" makes for a "lot of fun." Continue our mission of youth outreach- Through donations, sometime grants, and the proceeds from some of our events, and thanks primarily to the efforts of **Pete Saputo** and **Tom Nichols**, our youth outreach is providing opportunities for numerous high school youth to experience the joys and fun of singing in the barbershop style. And the OEC also benefits from our strong relationship with our local high schools by being able to rehearse at *Fullerton High School*.

Lastly, Perform with Personality-As Barbershoppers, we're not only singers, we are also performers. Think about your character as you sing and practice that character at rehearsals. Remember, practice makes permanent! The more we make efforts to improve our performing style, the more fun we have and the greater the experience for our audiences. When we sing and perform well, everyone experiences a great time with the "Number Fun Chorus!"

So in summary, our challenges for this year are to: Sing Well, Share the Fun, and Perform with Personality. Looking forward to a great 2017, singin' the ole songs!"

Beware the Oyster Man



By Tom Nichols

Last year the *Sugar Daddies* piled into **Mike Evans'** gigantic F250 pickup to deliver singing valentines. Since I was riding shotgun, I volunteered to enter the first address into Mike's on-board GPS.

"No need," said Mike, "Heather accepts voice input." Then he said, "Voice command!"

At this point, Heather (so named because of her cultured British accent) would normally respond, "Enter voice command!" On that morning for some reason, she didn't answer.

"Voice command!" Mike repeated. "VOICE COMMAND!"

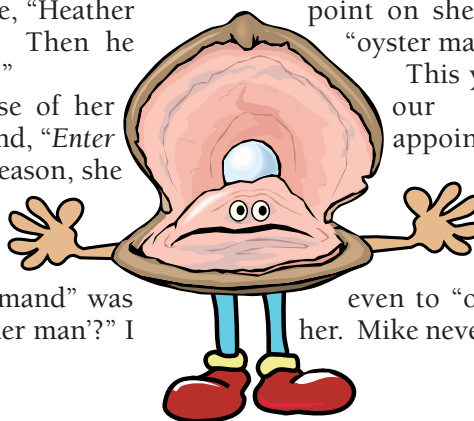
I listened to him in perplexity. "Voice command" was not what I was hearing. "Are you saying 'oyster man?'" I asked.

"Enter voice command!" responded Heather.

Mike proceeded to tell Heather what address to guide us to. After we finished that delivery we got back in the behemoth. Once again Mike repeated, "Voice command! Voice command!" to no avail. Finally, exasperated, he shouted "OYSTER MAN!"

"Enter voice command!" responded Heather. From that point on she would respond to nothing but "oyster man".

This year, Heather did not guide us to our singing valentine delivery appointments. Mike had replaced her with an entirely mute GPS that accepted entries from the screen. Apparently, she had become despondent and refused to answer even to "oyster man". I can't really blame her. Mike never followed her directions, anyway.



Joan Golding Photo

Editorial Musings



By *Don Derler, Publisher/Editor*

As you can see, we started off 2017 with a bang! We had a terrific Installation and Awards Banquet. So many folks pitched in to make it a memorable night and the results really showed. I can't think of a better way to kick off the new year than getting together for a nice dinner, (maybe a couple adult beverages) recognizing the outstanding efforts of our award winners and installing our new Board. Judging from all the smiling faces in the accompanying photos, everyone had a good time.

Shortly after the Banquet, we got our Singing Valentines program up and revving. So much work by so many people goes into our Valentine program, but it's well worth it. We get the opportunity to make so many people happy and maybe even create some new Barbershop fans! Many thanks to everyone who makes it possible.

Many members of the OEC participated in the *Southern California Novice Quartet Contest*, hosted by the *Orange Quartet Chapter*. That's always a fun evening and a great way for our singers to get into the wonderful world of quarteting. It's a completely different experience than singing in the Chorus and makes you a better singer. I highly recommend this contest to anyone who hasn't done it yet.

Our *Youth in Harmony* program is going great and the results are impressive. So many positive things are happening because of our youth program. The "kids" are getting turned on to the joys of singing Barbershop. They are performing in our shows and even pitching in to help us with a highly energetic (young) work force that helps with set-up and take-down, not to mention they are terrific at waiting on our customers at our shows. Can you imagine getting some of this work done without them? We are so fortunate to have this relationship with these students and teachers.

As of this writing, we have just finished our annual show, "Shipshape Barbershop". I have received some great photos and I'm hoping to get a couple interesting articles from the members of the Chorus. If you have a story or two about your experiences before, during or after the show, PLEASE write them down NOW before you forget and send them to me. The number of articles I have been receiving has led to the Clippins' being published on a quarterly basis. So look for the next issue in a couple of months.

Each issue of the Clippins' requires about 16 to 20 hours to put together. Photos need to be re-sized and color-corrected. Articles need to be edited and the whole bulletin then needs to be assembled and proof read. Then comes any corrections or revisions before saving the file in PDF format and sending it off to Mike to place in our website. To make my efforts worthwhile, I really need for everyone to think about submitting articles and photos. How about submitting an article or taking some photos the next time your quartet or the Chorus has an activity. Good place to start!

Clippin's Publishing & Policy Information

The Fullerton Chapter Barbershop *Clippin's* is published under the auspices of the president of the Fullerton Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA), Inc. Printing and postal costs are paid by the chapter as authorized by the board of directors.

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Photography	Joan Golding

Barbershop Clippin's A Tradition of Excellence

1991, 1992

Bob Hein - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

1993, 1994, 1995, & 1996

Bob Hein - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year - Second

1996

Bob Hein - International Bulletin Contest - Most Improved Bulletin

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

Dick Cote - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

1998

Dick Cote - International Bulletin Contest - Third Place

1999, 2000, 2005

Dick Cote - International Bulletin Contest - First Place

2011

Dick Cote - Selected for PROBE Hall of Honor

Note:

Dick Cote - elected to suspend contest entry in 2005

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



Chapter Officers & Other Important People

President*
 Chapter Development VP*
 Music & Performance VP*
 Public Relations VP*
 Program VP*
 Youth In Harmony VP*
 Secretary*
 Treasurer*
 Internet Marketing VP*
 Members at Large*

Steve Hansen
 Hershel Green
 Dave Lowerre
 Don Derler
 Don Derler
 Tom Nichols
 Steve Sarandis
 Jay Campbell
 Mike Evans
 Dave Orosco
 Jim Eacret
 Mac McDougal

I.P.P.

Pete Saputo

Afterglow Chairman
 Barberpole Cat Chairman
 Barbershop 101 Coach
 Chapter Historian
 Chorus Photographer
 Clippin's Publisher & Editor
 Clippin's Copy Editor/Proofreader
 Chapter Chefs
 Chorus Manager
 Harmony FLB Chairman
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 Quartet Activities
 Quartet Development
 Roving Reporter
 Section Leaders

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 Tom Nichols
 Dennis Woodson
 Don Derler
 Joan Golding
 Don Derler
 The lovely Terri Derler
 Ferdi Roades, Jim Gruver
 Mark Logan
 Sam Glorioso
 TBD
 Art Clayton
 TBD
 TBD
 Tenor: Tom Nichols
 Lead: Dave Lowerre
 Baritone: Dennis Woodson
 Bass: Don Derler

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 Pete Saputo
 TBD
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