Students Add Youthful Enthusiasm To Muckenthaler Show

by Tom Nichols

Our Harmony Under the Stars benefit show at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center raises funds to support music education in the local high schools. Two high school groups showed us what that funding accomplishes at this year's show on August 25. Glasses Half Full, fresh from their winning performance at the Southern California Comedy Quartet Contest, entertained the audience with ringing chords and hilarious comedy bits. Their easy manner on stage and their natural way with comedy were marvels to behold. These four young men from La Habra High School have another year before graduation will separate them. It will be fun to see what they can accomplish in that time.

In their first public performance, the No No Nonette, nine young women from La Habra High School, performed two songs that they have worked up since the school year ended. That they were willing to get together and rehearse during summer vacation shows a lot of dedication. They are really enjoying it, as was evident from their performance. They developed their own choreography and learned over just three months to sing without accompaniment and perform their songs confidently.

Continued on page 3

Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Steve Sarandis, Steve Hansen, Dick Cote, Mike Evans
Tom Nichols, Hershel Green, Sam Glorioso,
Pete Saputo, Terri Derler & Craig Ewing
The “Muck” In Pictures

Terri Derler Photos
I get to work with both groups, and I find it amazing how quickly they learn new skills. I can tell you that having a public performance looming really improves their focus and their desire to improve. So featuring them not only added variety and interest to our show, but helped them grow as well. Their friends and family members attended the show, increasing the size of our audience. Also, many audience members told me how much they love seeing these young people perform. So there are a lot of good reasons to keep working and performing with the high school students.

One of the best ways I have found to get students interested in barbershop singing is to send them to the Young Men’s Harmony Festival, a one-day barbershop harmony camp presented each year by the Masters of Harmony, and Diva Day, a similar camp for girls, courtesy of the Harborlites. They come back from these events fired up about barbershop and start forming quartets. We send 40 to 60 students to these events each year with the help of donations. Twenty-five dollars pays the tuition for one student. If you would like to help students get started in our hobby, make out your check to Orange Empire Chorus, P.O. Box 3331, Fullerton, CA 92834. Write “Youth in Harmony” on the memo line, or use the memo line to designate your donation for a specific event.

The Barberpole Cats rise again

By Dick Cote

After a long hiatus and much anticipation about a new Barberpole Cat 2 book, we’re going to restart our Barberpole Cat program. However, it won’t be with the new book, but with the version that the Society published and copyrighted in 1982. The new version really doesn’t lend itself to fairly easy to learn and fun, familiar songs, and those are the elements we’re really looking for in Barberpole Catting - easy to use and to share with other Barbershoppers anywhere and anytime.

So here’s the plan. I’m recreating our Barberpole Cat charts which will list all the active members of the chorus, and give us a chance to qualify for some awards, including a special Barberpole Cat certificate and a BarberPole Cat tie tac. A number of you have already qualified, but you’re certainly invited to requalify on any or all of the songs. Remember the famous adage of our Associate Musical Director Woody Woodson, you should check your music charts every so often because it’s interesting to see how many of the notes have moved. Plus, some of you may now want to qualify in parts other than your chorus part. That’s a real fun thing to do and can enhance your chances of quartetting.

Anyway, we’ll start the program again in late September or early October with a gathering starting at 6:30 P.M. until 7:00, and there will be a chance to sing each song with seasoned judges checking you out on each part. Most, if not all, of you received the Barberpole Cat book when you joined the Society. If you don’t have one, you should be able to get one from the chapter librarian. The songs are not yet included in our chapter web site, but perhaps we can solve that by including the charts as well as the learning tracks for each part.

Here’s a list of the songs included in this effort:

- My Wild Irish Rose
- Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie
- Sweet and Lovely (That’s What You Are To Me)
- Down Our Way
- Honey-Little ’Lize Medley
- Let Me Call You Sweetheart
- Sweet, Sweet Roses Of Morn
- Shine On Me
- The Story Of The Rose (Heart Of My Heart)
- You’re The Flower Of My Heart, Sweet Adeline
- Down By The Old Mill Stream
- You Tell Me Your Dream

So let’s get started. You can review each of the songs on your own, which you should do anyway, and get a head start on quartetting. Let’s sing!
Glasses Half Full, a quartet of young men from La Habra High School, won the 2016 Southern California Comedy Quartet Contest. With two members graduating in May, Mark and Andy joined the quartet to fill the empty slots, and the quartet worked through the Summer to prepare for the contest. A coaching session with Metropolis bass and comedic genius Brian Philbin helped them with their comedy chops.

They were clearly the audience favorites, generating lots of laughs with their antics, but to win the contest, they had to sing well, too. Of the three judges, Craig Ewing is a certified Barbershop Harmony singing judge, and Steve Katz is training as a performance judge. Both judged the contest according to official BHS standards. Only one judge, Dave Lowerre, judged the quartets specifically on their comedic effect.

I told them not to worry about winning the contest and just to have fun on stage, because that's what it takes to connect with the audience. So they were bowled over when they won. It was an exciting, emotional moment for the quartet. One boy's mother said, “He just loves barbershop,” but it was clear that she spoke for all of them. They floated home afterwards. I hope they were looking out for power lines.

Another youth quartet, Nothing Rhymes with Orange from Fullerton High School, also competed in the comedy contest. They were the winners of the Novice Contest earlier this year, and by their performance in the contest, appear to have improved their singing since.

Second place finishers were “184”, performing as the Hillbilly Barbers – a little wordplay there – the bass is Billy Hill. In third place were Fullerton’s own Spit-Tunes.

Thanks are due to the Orange Quartet Chapter for staging this contest. I can testify to how important the Comedy and Novice Quartet Contests are in motivating youth quartets to show up for rehearsals and focus on their craft. I want to congratulate OQC on another successful contest and encourage to the Fullerton Chapter to support them in producing these important events.
By Steve Hansen, aka, “ole blue eyes”

As one who loves to travel, I have had the opportunity to enjoy many musical experiences both domestic and international. This past July, Cheri and I traveled to Eastern Europe. In preparation for our vacation, we learned from the travel books that in Croatia, the first country on our itinerary, we might find some local men’s a capella groups called “Klapas,” performing at various historic sites. (For those of you who aren’t sure, Croatia - part of the former Yugoslavia - is the country directly across the Adriatic Sea from Italy.) These Klapas typically have 4 to 8 members made up of a single lead tenor, and a number of second tenors, baritones, and basses. Sound a little familiar? Klapa singing is a fine tradition on the Dalmatian coast of Croatia with multiple part harmonies and of course no instruments necessary. As in the barbershop harmony tradition, so too in Croatia, many Dalmatians sing in groups for the sheer enjoyment of it; informally in bars and restaurants or as a more formal presentation in public spaces or on a stage. Also, as in the barbershop style, there are both men’s and women’s groups but the most popular are the men’s klapas.

While visiting the Diocletian Palace in the town of Split, Croatia, Cheri and I had the good fortune of running into some Klapa singers in the vestibule, a high ceiling domed section of the palace with outstanding acoustics. For you history buffs, the Roman Emperor, Diocletian built this beautiful palace as his summer residence around 305 AD. His grandson, the later Roman Emperor Constantine, established the city of Constantinople in 330 AD which became the site of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and the present day international city of Istanbul, Turkey.

After enjoying the great Dalmatian harmonies from this group of Klapas, I decided to buy their CD and began a short conversation with them about a capella singing. When I mentioned that I sang in California in an a cappella chorus and in a quartet in the barbershop style, they invited me to sing along with them. I did my best to fill in the chords as they sang a brief Dalmatian melody. Then they invited me to sing a barbershop song and they said they would harmonize with me. I regaled them and many other bystanders with “My Wild Irish Rose” and they did well harmonizing along with me. It was fantastic to sing with these fine singers and hear the harmony ringing off the ancient walls of this historic palace.

So there you have it, singing with the Klapas in Dalmatian harmony. With the Barbershop Harmony Society interest in exposing more singers to the joys of barbershop harmony, I wouldn’t be surprised if someday, some Croatian Klapas might add the barbershop style to their repertoire as well. Consider the musical journey of The Ringmasters in Sweden and The Musical Island Boys from New Zealand. Like them, the Klapas certainly have the musical foundation for it. Who knows, the CABS (Croatian Association of Barbershop Singing) may be just around the corner. I know they would enjoy singing “the old songs.”
Quarter Notes

By Hershel Green

A few months ago, one of our newest members asked me about a sing out time and place, etc. I thought he should have known the details. I had missed a couple rehearsals and did not have the info he needed. He did not know who he should talk with, so I took him to the member in charge of that activity and got the information. If he did not know about the chorus activities there must be others that were not up to date with the going ons in the chorus and they could use some help too.

I thought it would be a good thing to have a paper that is e-mailed to the membership and sent by regular mail to the membership that does not have an e-mail address and remind them of chorus sing outs and activities, general information of the chorus, Orange County concerts (vocal performances) etc. I talked with management about my idea. They said OK and the “QUARTER NOTES” was created. Is that original or what? In addition to the chorus activities if you have a church or personal musical function let me know about them and if there is room, I’ll be glad to list them with your phone number as the contact. I hope this paper will help get more singers at our sing outs and activities.

My e-mail address is hershgreen95@gmail.com. Don’t be a wise guy the number in my e-mail is not my age and my phone number is 714-738-6442.

Questions? Call or e-mail me..

Hershel

Sugar Daddies Are Famous!

by Mike Evans

Well it finally happened. The Sugar Daddies have been discovered. It all happened on the exciting Fullerton Day of Music. The Sugar Daddies were invited to sing for the Fullerton City Council to let the Council be involved in the Day of Music. As luck would have it, a writer for the Fullerton News Tribune happened to catch our act. The following week, we got a phone call asking if we would be willing to answer a few questions for a piece he would be doing for the paper. We agreed and invited him to come to one of our rehearsals. Not only did he come to interview each of us, but he also brought a photographer. If you would like to see the article go to http://www.ocregister.com/articles/nichols-722930-lowerre-quarter.html and be sure to watch the video. My dog, Tess plays a major role. Anyway, the Sugar Daddies appeared in the local section of the Register and in the News Tribune. I am still waiting for all the phone calls we are expecting to get for a major tour.

All kidding aside, we had great fun at the Fullerton Day of Music. We performed first with the chorus on the Museum Plaza stage and then quickly changed costumes to perform at the City Council Meeting. After the meeting we roamed the downtown area of Fullerton singing to anyone who asked. We even got a few folks to sing tags with us with hopes that they would come and visit the chorus.

The following week we traveled to nearby Orange to perform for the Orange Corvette Club. This group was really fun. We did a twenty minute set with great response from the audience. We even had a few folks singing along to some of our more familiar songs. Thanks go to Mark Logan for setting this up for us.

The Sugar Daddies actually spent some time in a recording studio recently. Dave Lowerre (our lead singer) set up a two hour recording session for us. This was really a blast. I had never done anything like this before. The staff person was very professional and made us feel right at home. She was very helpful (and patient) with us as Tom Nichols (our tenor) helped her get the balance and sound that we wanted. We recorded two songs which Don Derler (our bass) will be working with for a special project. Be watching our “facebook” page and/or “YouTube” for the finished projects.
You heard the phrase “Laughter is the best medicine”? We all know that humor is infectious. The sound of laughter is contagious. How many times have you laughed at something that really wasn’t that funny but laughed any ways because someone else laughed? That is one reason why some TV shows had laughter dubbed in the background after a supposed punch line was given.

When laughter is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness and intimacy. Laughter also triggers healthy physical changes in the body. Humor and laughter strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain, and protect you from the damaging effects of stress. Best of all, this priceless medicine is fun, free, and easy to use.

Does this sound familiar? It should. Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain, and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert.

I’ve written a couple of articles in the past about how singing is healthy. The fact is, I believe if you love to sing, you also love to laugh. If singing is healthy and laughing is healthy, then you can’t go wrong by doing both.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both physical and emotional health. Ever wonder why during singing competitions, the MCs tell a lot of jokes?

Let’s compare laughing and singing:

1. Laughter relaxes the whole body so does singing. A good hearty laugh or a good song where you ring chords will go a long way to relieve physical tension and stress. It also helps reduce blood pressure.

2. Laughter and singing boosts the immune system. They decrease stress hormones and increase immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies.

3. Laughter and singing triggers the release of endorphins which are the body’s natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.

4. Laughter protects the heart just like singing does. They improve the function of blood vessels and increase blood flow, which can help protect you from cardiovascular problems.

5. Laughter and singing adds joy and zest to your life.

6. They can strengthen relationships, attract others to us, enhance teamwork, help defuse conflict and promote group bonding.

7. Both singing and laughter is a fun way to have a workout. Laughing and breathing help tone your abs. The muscles in your diaphragm and stomach expand and contract, similarly to intentionally exercising your abs.

8. Singing and laughing can increase your overall sense of well-being. It can produce a positive outlook on life. People who have a positive outlook on life tend to fight diseases better than those who are so negative.

Singing produces benefits and results that might surprise you. No different than having a healthy sense of humor. For thousands of years, in all cultures, in all parts of the world, people have been singing and laughing. Singing itself, is in our genes and in human nature. The urge to sing – and to hear others sing – is in all of us. Singing - like laughter, play, sunshine, countryside and exercise – helps underpin and maintain our well-being and happiness. Singing is therefore fundamentally enriching.

*AHEM, *AHEM

EXCUSE ME, I'M A LITTLE HOARSE
Burgers and Barbershop...
The OEC Summer Picnic in Pictures
Burgers and Barbershop...
The OEC Summer Picnic in Pictures

THANKS MAC!

Terri Derler Photos
"My Mind is Kinda Hazy......."

I thought I had done my good deed for the month when I sent my editor my column... I was wrong.

It seems that I sent in my latest column that was a rehash of a column I had written a couple of years ago. I found this out after I received a reminder. I couldn't disguise it to make it look like a different one. The fact is, I save many of my columns in my computer's library and often can't remember if they were printed. So much for stealing my own column.

So here I am sitting in front of this darned computer screen that's blinking at me, waiting to put a few letters together to produce words. Well, I've gotten this far. I am reminded I have written several times before about that black cloud having to hover over me at times, in order for me to write something. I don't want to go over that again.

I don't like to dwell much on performances done or to be done; there is plenty of that by other guys. Most of what I have done are unintended attempts at attempted stunts (don't ask me what that means; I simply wrote it as it came out of my mind).

I've gone back to read what I have just written and I got a little bored. It seems like nothing exciting happened to me lately.

I am assuming that if you read this far, you too got bored.

So I will say I'm done. Better luck next time.
President’s Corner

By Pete Saputo, President

I’m BAAAAACK!

Yes, it’s me again (Pete Saputo) in the role of Chorus President. I know you voted for Ken to fill this office, but he went to other pastures. So here I am serving the remainder of his term of office. If there is anything you need to know about the running of the chorus, let me know and we will find someone with the answer.

On other subjects, the chorus is doing well. We are singing better, and we are performing well at our shows. The audience is having fun, and they are buying tickets to our shows. We did a great job at Harbor Lawn for Memorial Day and the crowd at The Nixon Library had a great time, once they found us amid the reconstruction efforts. We were the start of activities for Fullerton’s Day of Music and The Sugar Daddies went on to perform at other venues around Fullerton. We had a nearly full page story in the local Fullerton News Tribune section of the Orange County Register and in the Fullerton Observer. And, not to be outdone, The Sugar Daddies had their own article in the Register. We are getting our name out in the public.

As you are reading this, we will have had our performance at the Muckenthaler facility. A full house is expected for this performance and Tom Nichols will premiere a girl’s chorus from La Habra High as well as (perhaps) a young men’s quartet from the same school. (Great job Tommy). On the following Saturday our annual picnic and song fest is scheduled. Mac is doing a good job heading this up so let’s get out there and have some fun. Don Derler is one of the powerhouse members of the chorus. He runs our meetings and introduces visitors and prospective members as well as editing the award winning ‘Clippins’ that you are reading. Mark Logan, our chorus manager, and par excellent Alaska fisherman, is out there getting contracts signed for future performances. Mike Evans is our network guru for the internet services. Hershel Green saw an opportunity to inform the chorus members about the happenings of the chorus as well as the performance opportunities within our community. We look forward to the publishing of the ‘Quarter-notes’ coming soon. Thanks Hersh.

After the ‘Muck’ we head out to Riverside, CA for the Division Contest. It is close to home so I expect a good turnout. Let’s get together and form some carpools to get everyone there.

We are an active chorus and we get a lot done in a short time period. This happens when we work together and use our personal strengths and talents to be one of the Harmony Societies great choruses. I thank all of you for doing your part. Pres. Pete

Clippin’s Publishing & Policy Information

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The folks who get it done:

Clippin’s Publisher Don Derler - don@derlerart.com
Managing Editor Don Derler - 714-441-1864
Copy Editor/Proofreader Teni Derler
Photography Joan Golding
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Barbershop Clippin’s

A Tradition of Excellence

1991, 1992
Bob Hein - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

Bob Hein - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year - Second

1996
Bob Hein - International Bulletin Contest - Most Improved Bulletin

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.
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.oecchorus.org

Chartered July 1957
Home of the
ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS

Craig Ewing, Musical Director

Associate Directors
Tom Nichols, Dennis Woodson

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Chapter Development VP* Don Derler
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Quartet Activities TBD
Quartet Development TBD
Roving Reporter Fred Robirds
Section Leaders

Show Chairman
Show Director
Uniform Chairman
Sunshine Chairman
Webmaster

*Elective Office

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 Tues-
  day 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 Fuller-
  ton. (One block south of Commonwealth.)