

Singing every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Community
United Methodist Church of OlatheVisit us at our official web site:
<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>January 2011
Vol. 27 Number 1

'Twas the season to be jolly

And we were, up to a point ... jolly, that is

A good turnout on Main Street (closed just for us, I guess) met on the corner and sang to the shoppers as they wandered by with pockets filled with money and souls filled with joy. We caroled and they smiled. It's the rule. Dr. Tom shepherded us from store to store bothering the customers trying to buy stuff they wouldn't usually buy if it wasn't Christmas. Then we sang, uninvited, with another group of carolers, dressed in top hats and holiday suits and gowns. Yeah, it was kind of embarrassing, but they seemed to be OK with us horning in on their corner and we, most of us anyway, seemed to enjoy it. In fact Gary enjoyed it so much he stayed behind just to sing with them even though he didn't know the songs. Ah yes, woodshedding is a wonderful thing.

More stores to sing in, more walking and wondering where we were going, and back to sing with the group smart enough not to move. That was what we did for a couple of hours while a parade of lights was being staged for later.

Then, as might be expected, it got dark ... and cold. So, being cold and in need of liquid and sustenance, some meandered to a new brewery a couple of blocks away. Seemed like a great choice until it dawned on some of us that the planned parade would pass directly in front, and most smart folks figured it out before we did. The result was that there was no place to sit and eat and drink and talk and do all the stuff we thought we were going to do before we caroled some more at a chosen home for the elderly.



But, fate was smiling on us. When the parade started, some (those with kids) sitting at the bar opted to venture outside to view the passing twinkling lights hung on trucks and things. So we, Dave, Barny, Snyer, me, Del, Chuck and Gary, got some stools on which to perch. And eat. And miss the parade.

Since we were missing the very long parade, and since we were satiated, and since it was time to go to our next gig, we tried to leave. "Trying to leave" only applied to one of us since the wonderful close parking place found earlier was now blocked by those watching the parade, which was not even close to being over. So I did some watching and grousing until an opportunity appeared. The SUV next to me, owned by a pretty young woman, was able to squeeze between two pickups behind her. Then I was able to squiggle and do a lot of back and forth maneuvers to escape. By the time I got to Homestead, the caroling was in full force ... to a half dozen residents trying very hard to stay awake and convince us they appreciated us. Seems the promised posting of our appearance didn't happen. No matter, we sang, they nodded, we sang, they applauded, we sang again and wished them a Merry Christmas and went home. Not bad, not bad at all.



Splinters from the Board

CANYON CHORDS is the official monthly publication of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus known as the Montrose, Colorado, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Opinions stated in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Chapter, the Editor, or possibly even the stated author.

2011 CHAPTER OFFICERS

(Term expires 12/31 in year shown after office)

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Vern Dockter 210-1793

SECRETARY (2012)

Chuck Frush 249-0543

TREASURER (2012)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

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David Stannard 249-8029

PUBLICATIONS VP (???)

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Bob Brethouwer 209-1804

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

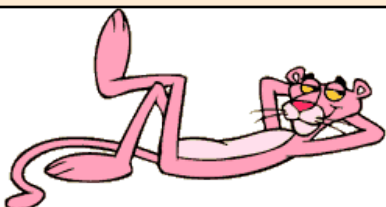
Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Carol Morrell

SUNSHINE GUY (appointed)

Rex Pierson 323-6670



Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does

It's probably a good thing this was our board's last dinner at Daveto's. Even though we arrived early, and even though we requested several times for individual checks, it didn't happen. Then, after again requesting separate checks, the staff completely screwed it up. None of the checks resembled what we actually ordered and ate. After the waiting and squabbling, we finally called the meeting to order at 7:24 PM. Good intentions simply didn't pan out.

Only Jason and Kevin missed this meeting. Honestly, they didn't miss anything.

These are snippets from the Dec. 14 meeting. If you want the minutes, tough!

A motion was made and passed to forgo our annual membership with Montrose Chamber of Commerce.

Somewhere along the evening, Valentine's Day singing was mentioned, and thought about. Vern offered to take the load off Larry this year, so any questions and complaints can be pointed to Vern. Bet he will regret this. The cost will be figured out later or not.

Barny and Vern want a membership night or two sometime in January. Gee, just what we need to interfere with our limited practice for our April Show.

Vern said he has not been successful in getting a high school chorus to perform on our show, but he will continue to pursue with Delta and maybe Cedaredge. If he is not successful, we may be in a bind.

Do we want real roses for Valentine' Day singing this year? How much should we charge? Danged if I know. Maybe a decision will be made at the January retreat meeting.

Some more discussion about the ticket prices for our 2011 show took up lots of time. Even though a motion had been passed to keep them the same as our last show, a failure to record the motion caused the issue to again be cussed and discussed. Finally Bob made the same motion again and it was passed again. This board meeting stuff is not that easy.

Probably for reasons we will never know, any discussion about marketing our show tickets or ways to increase our donor list was just ignored. Oh well. Seemed like a good idea at the time.

Vern said there is a glitch with the location for our afterglow. Barny agreed to check with the UMC in Montrose about having it at their Church and if they will cater the food. Vern says he will remain responsible for the afterglow.

Interested in our financial health? See our website for the latest.

Wonderful cake, ice cream, and cookies. We are really going to miss Lindalin's cooking. Thanks to her for 3 great years of yummy calories.

An Exercise in Frivolity Incognito ...

Notes from the Underground

I ("I" does not mean the Ed. It means the guy who wrote this) will send \$5.00 to the first person who calls me saying they read this part of Canyon Chords. Just kidding, don't call. (either one of us?)

New feature in Canyon Chords, "Notes From The Underground"

Here is how it works. Any BCBC member who has something to note submit it to Mr. Bill (that does mean Ed.). Hopefully you do read his monthly writings. Shame on you (I think this 'you' means YOU, THE READER) if you don't!

He will review your notes and if they do no lasting harm will consider for publication.

This will give you practice for a letter to the editor in your local newspaper. You do read don't you?

As a first underground note let me say that some of the most fun at our Holiday song sessions are to spot those in the audience who sing along or direct. Those are the people a BCBC member should go and say hello to after our song session; to note their pleasure in our songs. Say thanks. They are enjoying our performance and doing their best to make contact with us.

I know we must always pay close observation to our director but it's probably OK to be aware of others.

Now you ask; what's this Underground stuff? Well guess what; the author will only be known to the writer and to Bill. You have his email; now get cracking and send him your observations and comments.

Remember the rules; there are none!

And if you (I think this "you" means me, the Ed.) receive a number of underground notes you can publish all or hold one for later. Frankly I (probably the writer, not the Ed.) would publish them all!

Note from the Ed. Pesky pronouns prevent proper pontification and provide ponderous parity problems prompting possible proof.

"It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is."

-----Bill Clinton,



Tom Chamberlain	January 8
Gene Bond	January 30
Rex Pierson	February 2

*We don't stop singing because we get old,
we get old because we stop singing.*

*No one is in charge of
your happiness but
you*



**Chapter Registered
Quartets**

Blue Denim

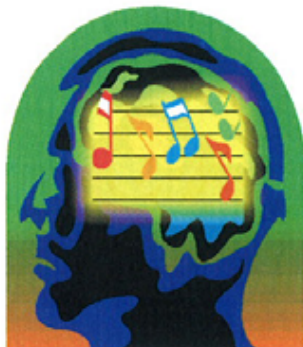
Contact: Chuck Frush 249-0543

FOURMATA

Contact: Bill Sutton 874-9280

Courtesy of The Voice of Rushmore December 2010

MUSIC & THE BRAIN



"Musical activity involves nearly every region of the brain that we know about, and nearly every neural subsystem." Daniel J. Levitin. (2007).

Training in Rhythm and other musical functions promotes re-organization of brain functions.

Playing music involves the frontal lobes, the motor cortex, and the sensory cortex.

"Listening to or recalling lyrics involves language centers...in the temporal and frontal lobes."

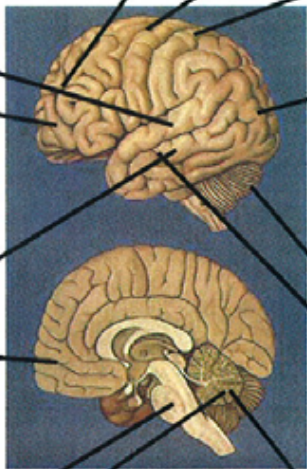
"Reading music involves the visual cortex, in the back of your head in the occipital cortex."

Remembering or recognizing music styles uses the hippocampus and the frontal cortex.

Emotional responses to music involve the cerebellum and the amygdala.

Listening to music involves the cochlear nuclei, the brain stem, cerebellum, and auditory cortices on both sides of the brain.

Tapping along with music involves the cerebellum.



REFERENCES:

Daniel J. Levitin. (2007). *This is Your Brain on Music*, pp. 83-84. New York: Dutton.
Michael H. Thaut (2005). *Rhythm, Music, and the Brain*. New York: Routledge.
Oliver Sacks (2007). *Musophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

What can music-making do for you?

1. **Provide a Workout for Your Entire Brain.** Daniel Levitin. (2006). *This is your brain on music: The science of a human obsession*. New York: Penguin Books.
2. **Increase Your Immunity.** Barry Bittman, MD, et al., (2001). Composite effects of group drumming music therapy on modulation of neuroendocrine-immune parameters in normal subjects. *Alternative Therapies Health Medicine*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 38-47. The study found that with one session of therapeutic drumming, the immune system was significantly strengthened and the activity level of the cancer-fighting T-cells was increased.
3. **Reduce Burnout, Improve Your Mood, and Improve Your Genome Functioning.** Barry Bittman, MD, et al. (2005). *Medical Science Monitor*, Vol. 11, No.2, pp. 31-40. The **genome** is an organism's complete set of DNA. All human cells (except for mature red blood cells) contain a complete genome. "The genome is a personal blueprint that serves as the instruction book for our bodies." There are 45 genomic markers associated with stress. They can be viewed as "switches that literally turn on the production of specific biological substances within the body." Bittman's study showed that making music changed 19 of the 45 stress genomes in a positive direction.
4. **Improve Your Emotions, Thinking Skills.** Michael Thaut, James Gardiner, et al. (Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 2009). Using neurologic music therapy in a cognitive rehabilitation setting, it was found that *one session* of music therapy improved mood and flexible thinking.
5. **Provide Increased Power to Your Brain.** Michael Thaut, Ph.D. (2005). *Rhythm, music, and the brain: Scientific foundations and clinical applications*. New York: Routledge.
 - First, music gives immediate **stimulation and structure** to the brain so that mental operations can become more reliable and predictable.
 - Second, music introduces **timing, grouping, and synchronization** so that the brain can be better organized.
 - Third, music **stimulates shared or parallel brain systems**, so that the working system can gain assistance from other systems to accomplish the task at hand.
 - Finally, music provides an atmosphere that **arouses emotion and motivation** for accomplishing the task at hand.

Our thanks to Ron Evenson's wife Melissa for passing this information along to us. She is Administrative Assistant for Vice President of Agency Operations & Community Transitions.



Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee. (Now I know why they record these conversations!):

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'

Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.'

Operator: 'What sort of trouble??'

Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'

Caller: 'They disappeared'

Operator: 'Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?'

Caller: 'Nothing.'

Operator: 'Nothing??'

Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'

Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'

Caller: 'How do I tell?'

Operator: 'Can you see the 'C: prompt' on the screen?'

Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'

Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'

Caller: 'There isn't any cursor; I told you, it won't accept anything I type.'

Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator??'

Caller: 'What's a monitor?'

Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'

Caller: 'I don't know.'

Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where The power cord goes into it. Can you see that??'

Caller: 'Yes, I think so.'

Opera tor: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall..'

Caller: 'Yes, it is.'

Operator: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Caller: 'Okay, here it is.'

Operator: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer..'

Caller: 'I can't reach.'

Operator: 'OK. Well, can you see if it is?'

Caller: 'No..'

Operator: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over?'

Caller: 'Well, it's not because I don't have the right angle -- it's because it's dark.'

Operator: 'Dark?'

Caller: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'

Operator: 'Well, turn on the office light then.'

Caller: 'I can't.'

Operator: 'No? Why not?'

Caller: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Operator: 'A power A power failure? Aha. Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff that your computer came in?'

Caller: 'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet..'

Operator: 'Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'

Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'

Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'

Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?'

Operator: 'Tell them you're too damned stupid to own a computer!'

Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .

3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

9. Two cannibals in Africa catch, cook and start eating a Clown. The one says to the other "Does this taste funny to you?"

10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

17. A backward poet writes inverse.

18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons.

The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'

23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

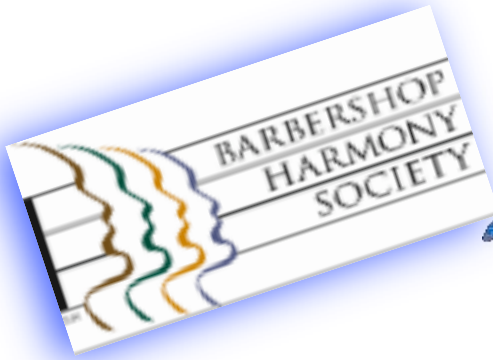
26. Two cannibals in Africa catch, cook and start eating a Clown. The one says to the other "Does this taste funny to you?"

27. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

Two elderly people living in Ft. Myers , he was a widower and she a widow, had known each other for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big arena in the Clubhouse. The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, 'Will you marry me?' After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered 'Yes. Yes, I will!' The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places Next morning, he was troubled. 'Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?' He couldn't remember. Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her.. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past.. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired, 'When I asked if you would marry me, did you say ' Yes' or did you say 'No'?' He was delighted to hear her say, 'Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will' and I meant it with all my heart.' Then she continued, 'And I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me.'

Teach the Children to Sing

Stamp
here



CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

"Flourishing and growing as individuals, as a chorus, and as a chapter by singing in an atmosphere of musical excellence and by promoting harmony in our lives, our relationships, and our community."

THE CANYON CHORDS
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COMPLIMENTARY
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Words of Wisdom from Larry Wilkinson

As your incoming President, there are a couple of areas that I want to try to help the Chorus grow and improve upon.

We have the talent and the capability to show that we are a professional organization that loves to sing. We need to show pride as well as discipline when performing. It's a matter of attitude each time we get on the risers or sing as a quartet to show the audience that we enjoy what we are doing and look the part.

I also want to help each of the officers with their designated responsibility so that everyone knows what's going on in order to keep harmony within the chapter.

We're doing well, but we can do better.

