

Canyon Chords



Singing every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Community
United Methodist Church of Olathe



Visit us at our official web site:
<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>

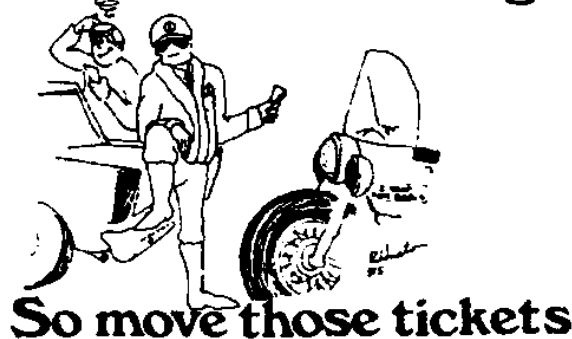
March 2012
Vol. 28 Number 4



Train wreck 4 and their Valentine of the day

Singing
Valentines has
their benefits as
can be seen by
this photo.
There must be a
story behind it
but you may
never hear it ...
For obvious
reasons.

The Show is Coming!



So move those tickets

If Jimmy cracks corn
and no one cares, why is
there a stupid song
about him?

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.

2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

PRESIDENT (2013)

Larry Wilkinson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Wilkinson

SECRETARY (2012)

Chuck Frush

TREASURER (2012)

Rex Pierson

PROGRAM VP (2013)

Larry Cooper

MEMBERSHIP VP (2012)

Kevin Cohenour

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2013)

Dennis Olmstead

MUSIC VP (2013)

David Stannard

PUBLICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Open

CHAPTER HISTORIAN (appointed)

Tom Chamberlain

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 yr terms)

Bob Brethouwer

Tim Davis

Del Dyck

John Taylor

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Carol Morrell

SERGEANT OF ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

SUNSHINE GUY (appointed)

Rex Pierson

As you might expect, the board met before the meeting to sup and have some nourishment. The chosen place for imbibation was the HorseFly. The results was that they could not serve beer for some legal reasons. So, food sans hootch was the rule. Good service though, cuz it was not crowded. Guess why.

The meeting commenced and concluded at the Wilkinson home of excellent chocolate cupcakes. Rex doesn't know what he missed.

The Treasurer report was very short for obvious reasons.

Lots of time was spent on the results of Singing Valentines, how the types of advertisement worked or didn't work, and a summary of our financial success. Considering the number of reservations were down, we done purty gud.

Coop is busy setting up an interesting and fun summer schedule that will include the Chapel of the Cross and probably the Grey Stone dinner theater. That would be great! A summer schedule will be made available after the show. No need to muddy the water at this point.

Kevin announced that both Olathe High School boys are now official members of our Chapter. Big thanks to Rex for making it happen.

The latest word on the practice singing workshop is for March 10, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the DMEA auditorium. All members are asked to bring their own lunch to simplify all the logistics and reduce costs. This is the best time to really polish the Show Songs and be ready for John Coffin.

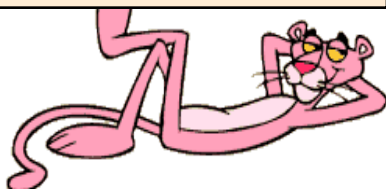
Dr. Bob said he is working on a script. Good idea. He has some thoughts about staging as well.

Dennis has developed a very comprehensive plan to improve our supporter/donation results. Both Tim and Larry are on board to make this the best year ever and possibly put us back in the healthy black. All you other guys are expected to take a turn making the efforts pay off. Sign up to beg from somebody you know to make this a great year.

There was general agreement to keep the domain 'blackcanyonchorus.org' in place and reimburse Gary Armour for renewing it for one year. After that, it will be the board's responsibility to take care of it in the future.

Show Posters were reviewed and will be available for all members to print and put up in the near future. Be ready to get the word out.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.



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

Craft Corner

Vowel Matching

By Tom Raburn, Big D chapter,
Dallas, Texas

Question: when does $2 + 2 = 5$?

Answer: When barbershop harmony is sung correctly, creating harmonic overtones and "expanded sound." One of the most important factors in the achievement of choral blend and expanded sound is unity of vowel sounds. Vowels are what we sing and sustain, separated by consonants to make words. When we match vowel sounds, we create like harmonics and the sound expands in intensity through reinforcement. In singing, vowels are created through the natural resonance of the human vocal tract. The tongue, lips and jaw are used to fashion the resonators into their vowel shapes. Some basic rules to follow when forming vowel sounds are:

When producing all vowel sounds, the tip of the tongue should be placed gently on the lower gum ridge, with the tip barely touching the base of the lower teeth. This helps keep the throat open so the vocal chords can vibrate naturally through the resonators (mouth, throat, and sinus cavities).

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

The jaw should be allowed to relax naturally with a swinging down and back motion. The lips should leave the teeth uncovered. Although the mouth must be open wide, it is not how wide it is open but the shape that is most important.

Every vowel can be sung with one of three mouth shapes: round (example— "oh"), square (example— "ih" as in sit) and oblong (example— "ah" as in pop). Refinements to form each specific vowel sound are made by the degree to which the tongue is arched in the mouth, and the degree to which the jaw is dropped. For instance, both the "oh" sound and the "oo" (as in moon) sound are made with the round mouth shape, but the "oh" sound is made with the mouth as open as possible while the "oo" sound is made with the smallest, most rounded shape.

As we sing the songs in our repertoire, keep in mind the basic mechanics of producing vowel sounds and think about the target vowel sound for each word in the song. Properly matched vowels can enable our chorus of twenty-something men to "fill the hall" and create the expanded sound that makes barbershop harmony so much fun to sing and hear.

Big D Bulletin, September 1998



Chuck Frush
Lee Erven

March 2
March 12

*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 Quartets

FOURMATA

Contact: Bill Sutton 874-9280

Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.

Singing So Your Teeth 'Buzz'

Jon Wagner, jon_wagner1@msn.com

Several years ago, a guy I really respect (Toby Balsley - baritone/lead of Bank Street) told me that "if your teeth ain't buzzin, you're doing it wrong." Naturally I filed his advice away somewhere in the back of my mind, and didn't do anything about it. I was singing tenor at the time, and it was hard to make a falsetto "buzz" through your teeth or any other way. We had been talking about "voice placement" and how to sing more cleanly.

That advice keeps coming back to me every once in a while, and now as a bass, it finally makes sense. Singing through your teeth forces your voice placement into a really good place (for a number of reasons). So, when you sing, make your teeth buzz. Ok, so this sounds a bit strange.

Of course, this is simply a "technique" — another way of describing something simple, and often overlooked. Another technique presented by NMC coaches has been the use of saying "AFLAC" as a way to get the voice more forward. Unfortunately AFLAC tends to put your voice into your nose, sort of like Jerry Lewis, and nobody really wants to sound like that. Singing to make your teeth buzz, tends to focus your chest voice through your teeth rather than your nose, and simply sounds better.



If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid. - Naval Ops Manual



So why is a "forward voice placement" worthy of discussion? Well, if everybody adapts a "forward" voice placement:

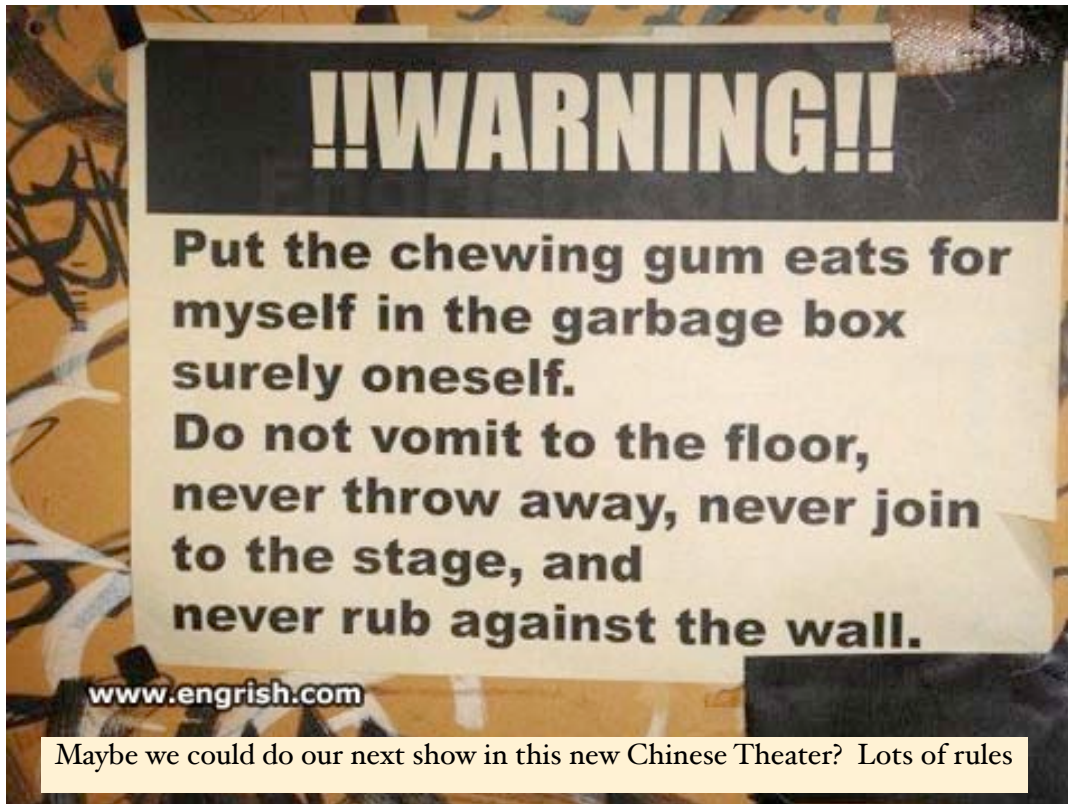
- We sound "younger" and have more "ring" in our sound (really good for a bunch of old farts).
- Our voices tend to blend better. It really helps in developing a "unit" sound both within our sections and between sections, and makes both choruses and quartets sound better.
- It is easier to sing fast passages, if your placement is forward. Timing improves, and songs that are meant to be sung "lightly" really can be. Word sounds just trip off the tongue easier.
- And, oh yeah, you can easily raise your singing scores five points or more — overnight!

So basses and baritones, when singing in your chest voice, focus the sound through your teeth. Try it, you'll like it! You'll sound better, cleaner, more in tune, and more like a unit.

This technique works for leads as well, but often leads and tenors must resort to head voice or falsetto. When you use falsetto, this technique is difficult, and your placement must necessarily be higher in the masque, but this technique still works well when you are in "full" voice.

Taken from Mountain Talk to took it from a PROBE website

I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap
when I was younger.



A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

Spring Prelims in Omaha Held Jointly With Central States

On April 20-21, the RMD International Quartet Prelims will be held with the Central States District in Omaha, Neb. Quartets or small choruses desiring to enter either contest should contact RMD C & J VP John Coffin, johnrcoffin@comcast.net

*I can't remember
the last time I
wasn't at least kind
of tired.*

***If I agreed
with you,
we'd both
be wrong.***

*How many times is it appropriate to
say "What?" before you just nod and
smile because you still didn't hear or
understand a word she said?*



Teach the Children to Sing

Stamp here

Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than on a bicycle.

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
BULLETIN EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Bill Sutton
1943 Spring Drive
Delta CO 81416
Phone/FAX 874-9280
e-mail: williesut@aol.com

1943 Spring Drive
Delta, CO 81416

RETURN REQUESTED

COMPLIMENTARY
COPY

Keep the Whole World Singing

The President's Corner with Larry Wilkinson

Now that we have had a breather after Valentines Day, let's really put all our attention, energies, and spare time to **THE SHOW**.

The tunes that Rex was able to pull up on the internet were inspiring because of the precision of tone but also the timing.

Let' go for it and have a fun time too.



COMBINED 2012

Spring Convention & Quartet Prelims

Rocky Mountain & Central States District



April 20-22



Omaha, Nebraska

Singing Brothers in Harmony

Shirts get dirty.
Underwear gets dirty. Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.

