

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



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August 2011
Vol. 27 Number 8

Silverton Festival is now just a memory ... and a darn good one. Here are comments from those who attended all from underground sources ... unless otherwise noted.

Note from Director MaryAnn:

Marty and I had a great time at Silverton this year. Marty's comment about our own chorus was "the blend has improved quite a lot from last year...you sounded great...the best there!" For me, this year was much better since it wasn't brand new for me, like last year was. I enjoyed directing the chorus without my music--the men all paid great attention and facial expression was excellent...very professional, yet with the emotion needed to "sell the song." John Coffin told me that our chorus "did great...Wow!" He also offered to come and work with us in Montrose if we want him to (and if we can pay for his transportation and lodging). I'll be bringing that up this Thursday when I see everyone at Main in Motion. Hats off to Jason for all his hard work and the super job of emceeing the event.

Our chorus sounded just super with a nice blend and harmony. MaryAnn was pleased and so were we.

Grand Junction tried to make up for their mediocre sound by adding some frantic choreography. Unfortunately for them, they followed us and their poor sound was obvious. Durango had good sound, but their very small group didn't allow a mellow blend.

It was fun to hear RAPPORT sing again, but they have lost a bit with age and lack of practice.

Pete Peterson was honored with a commemorative pen set. Well deserved. Thanks Pete, for all your hard work.

If there was a prize for the one who knows all the words the best, Nick would win hands down. Way to go, Nick.

I'm not sure why the numbers of chorus participates was only 54, but it has been similar for several years. Everyone is too busy on weekends I guess. Perhaps the economy was a factor too. It sure didn't affect the audience or the quality of the performance.

Everything seemed to work.

No rain, lots of sunshine, good sounds, great way to spend the day.

John C brought his old quartet RAPPORT from Denver and they entertained with about a half dozen songs. Excellent.

It was 49 degrees in Silverton Friday night and was supposed to rain Saturday night. It looked like it might rain, but it cleared up, and we had sunny skies and 75 degree temperature. I can't remember a prettier afternoon in Silverton.

More comments follow

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.

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

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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MUSIC VP (2011)

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PUBLICATIONS VP (???)

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Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Carol Morrell

SUNSHINE GUY (appointed)

Rex Pierson 323-6670

A pre-meeting culinary repast complete with adult beverage at the HorseFly Brewery successfully set the tone for the following drudgery of thinking. That, coupled with excellent cupcakes and marvelous coffee happened at the President's home.

After approval of the minutes and financial reports, Dr. Bob informed the board that 3 songs had been chosen for his 2012 Show. But he couldn't remember them. Bet MaryAnn will know them and we will work on them soon.

What about rehearsal coffee and snacks? No volunteers for August. Do we need them? Some think it will work no matter, some don't. Time will tell.

Dr. Bob revised the title for the 2012 Show ... again. It is now

A CAPPELLA MOMENTS WITH 24 GUYS AND A GAL

This may be the final title unless it is changed.

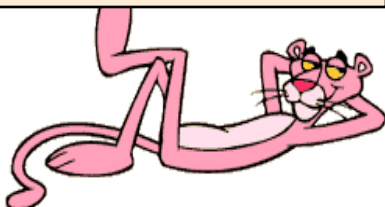
Singing for a large audience without all the harmony parts was kind of painful, considering our chorus was beneficiary of \$0.75 a pint, but it was done anyway. Thanks to JonnyBob and John Reick for joining us at the HorseFly.

Most all board members attended, well primed for enlightening discussions and debate. Which means it was a typical board meeting.

Program VP Barny wishes someone would take some of the jobs he does so he wouldn't have to in the future. Things like being responsible for the risers, the sound system, the chapter uniforms, along with planning meetings and singouts is taking it's toll. Somebody needs to step up ... or not.

Barny thinks we should get 4 or 5 blue ties at the current cost of \$25 each just in case Dr. Bob and others lose theirs. The board agreed, and passed by motion to purchase 4 ... just in case.

We have an opportunity to engage John Coffin to give our chorus some needed coaching. President Larry will contact John for time, cost, and details. More information will follow, but be ready to do some serious work with John.



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

Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones who mind, don't matter!



President Larry celebrates his 89th. Skiing and singing must be the answer.



Lloyd Wenzel

Aug 19

Did I forget anyone? Let me know

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

More comments on Silverton

This was one of the best Silverton B-shop events ever and probably the best audience I can remember. We had to put out extra seats. 200 wasn't enough. At the last chord of Battle Hymn, the audience leapt to their feet en masse.

John Coffin couldn't believe how easy the day went. Apparently everyone had worked hard to learn the music, including the new numbers, and we broke early for the breaks and at the end of the day. Even Sweet Mae was tolerable. He said it was one of the best groups he had ever directed. Montrose was by far the best and largest chorus. Coffin singled out MaryAnne with awesome praise. Our bass section was amazing. Our new members have stepped up to the plate and filled the gap. Everyone tries hard for MaryAnne and it showed when we sang for the audience

If you enjoyed hearing Rapport again, here is some history. We had them as our Guest Quartet in 1994 when they were the 1993 RMD Silver Medalists. The Show was "Don't Fence Me In" Del Wiesner and Bill Sutton were the co-show chairmen. Larry Cooper and Tom Chamberlain were our directors. Our EmCee for the show was Paul Nystrom. Glenn Simpson was our President. Bet most of you didn't know this, or remember it. Or care.

*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



Words of wisdom lifted from Steve Jackson's excellent bulletin, July Mountain Talk. Thanks, Steve ... and Priscilla.

Chorus Director
Priscilla Shaw

Are We The Best We Can Be?

"We are what we repeatedly do.

Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Aristotle

As I'm gearing up to travel to Kansas City for the BHS International Competition I can't help but think about the journey all the quartets and choruses have taken to get there. Only the best of the best qualify for International every year. These groups practice all year long for one moment in time. I think about the amount of consistent focus it takes to sing every chord perfectly. Not just perfectly in tune for the "lock and ring" but perfectly presented to the audience with the right emotion, dynamics, inflection and interpretation. Through the years I've been fortunate to learn about what separates the gold medal quartets and choruses from the rest. I don't know all of the secrets but I know a few! I want to share these habits with our chorus so that we can simply model our rehearsals around best practices.

1. The ensemble selects music that fits who they are in personality and ability.

Are we funny, serious, story tellers, traditional, flirtatious, etc? Once the ensemble identifies their personality they can then select the appropriate songs.

2. Each quartet member comes to rehearsal with their individual part mastered.

Time alone should be spent practicing notes and words. Time together should focus on things like blend, breath marks, interpretation, lock and ring, etc.

3. Each rehearsal begins with a thorough warm up that focuses on unison of sound.

It is so important for the ensemble to not only warm up voices but to warm up the ears. Listening is also a warm up strategy.

4. Surprisingly, not all rehearsals are in quartet form. Almost half of the rehearsal time is spent dueting. The reason for this is so that all the parts can lock intervals.

Duetting really exposes intervals that you wouldn't normally hear while singing all four parts simultaneously. Duetting lead with tenor, baritone with bass, and all the various combinations is a detail that ensures lock and ring.

5. Every single rehearsal is recorded so that at each member can listen to their voice during the week and make corrections.

You should never just trust what you think you hear in a live rehearsal. When you listen to a recording of yourself sing it's amazing what you hear that is off. Playing back a recording of yourself allows you to hear what the audience hears. This is a great tool for making corrections to notes and voice quality.

6. Great quartets get an outside opinion.

*Even the best quartets get outside coaching. There are experts in the field that help take an ensemble to the next level by focusing on minute details. It's really neat to watch us transition into a better chorus. We are doing so many of the right things, and we need to continue to implement best rehearsal practices so that we can sing better and be attractive to new members. So, I'm asking each of you to do your part in making the **Denver MountainAires** the best we can be!*



More comments on the Silverton experience

Positive

1. Audience size good considering how dead Silverton was after train left
2. Mass Chorus - I thought Excellent and that helped buy groups working with music before event.
3. Sweet May Tune - did not come off as bad as I thought it would
4. Venue Weather and tent - Both held up well, tent better when flaps opened
5. Director for Mass Chorus worked well with us.
6. Schedule Followed (sometimes that does not happen)
7. Numbers down - to be expected it's the economy you know. When you have low wages and most stuff made overseas what do you expect.

Negative

1. Would have chairs in semi-circle for Practice sessions, hard to tune as placed in rows. Also hard to see Director.
2. Perhaps have Chamber of Tourism or whoever "talk up event with merchants as well as to have them say to tourists on the day" "did you know that..." I found the few I approached in on the street did not have a clue. Posters up, folks just don't read 'em.

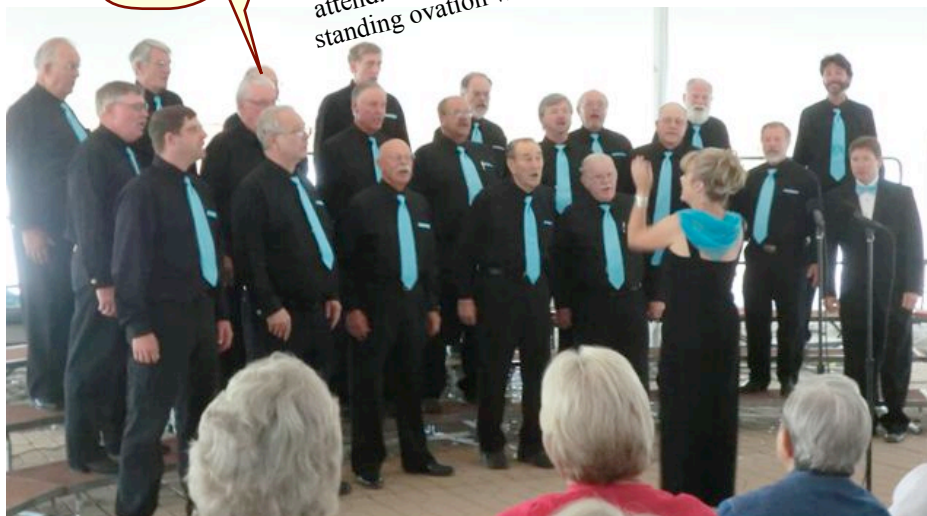
I was really pleased with Durango's and our performance and the larger chorus. Jason did a great job of organization and I enjoyed getting to know some members of Black Canyon a little better. Thanks MaryAnn for your encouragement and patience with us; it really paid off! Nick

John Coffin did a superb job in directing. His movements we easy to follow to get the most response from the chorus. It was quite obvious that he recognized the different styles that each individual chorus had in presenting a given number to the point that he would compromise a bit , yet getting a final result he was happy with.

Jason did a fine job as master of ceremonies. His introduction of a retired championship quartet at one of the breaks went over real well. To me , it showed the breadth and depth of the Barbershop Society

Whereas the numbers were down slightly over past years, the quality of singing was some of the best. I'm glad I made the effort to attend. MaryAnn had us in top shape where we got a standing ovation with our last number.

**YES,
I DID
LOSE MY
TIE. SO
WHAT**





Could be
lunch, could
be dinner ..
Who cares?

As usual the silverton festival was exactly that, a festivity. Everything was wonderful, had a good crowd and a good sound. I would give it a 9+ on a scale of 10.
Tim D



John Coffin, the Silverton Harmony Festival Director
johnrcoffin@comcast.net



Jason 'splains how it is supposed to work

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea

Carl's View on Silverton Music Festival 2011

On Friday night the coaching for quartets was probably the most productive in several years. Since John Coffin is a Presentation Judge his coaching was mostly focused on that category. Most all of his comments to the quartets concerned their presentation of the song. He emphasized the visual as well as the lyric interpretation of a song as being important in connecting with an audience. None of the quartets used the songs presented at the coaching session in their portion of the Saturday evening performance. It would have been interesting to see how much of John's coaching was actually retained and put into practice. However, the coaching comments from those attending the session, none of whom are judges or qualified coaches, to the other quartets on how to improve their performances were the only negative aspect of the evening.

The Festival itself was very enjoyable. I believe the total number who registered for the Festival was 54. This is probably the lowest number of attendance in the 25 years of the Festival which would put it in the Plateau II category for size. John Coffin did an even better job than he has done in the past. It appeared that all those who attended from the local chapters had spent some time in becoming familiar with the songs for the mass chorus. This allowed the time spent on each song to be at a minimum and gave John some additional time, which has been spent in the past to learn the song, to do some fine tuning.

This was the 25th anniversary of the Silverton Music Festival. The founder of

the Festival, Dr. Carroll Peterson was honored with a plaque and pen set. Dr. "Pete" has attended every festival since it's inception.

Each year the Festival has some changes which may or may not be a favorable experience for those who attend. This year the Afterglow following the Saturday evening show was one that, for some, will be viewed as unfavorable. This should in no way reflect upon the Festival Director.

Yes, it's hard to plan when you have no indication as to how many will actually attend an Afterglow at your establishment. You would think that having had an Afterglow for a couple of years you would have a fair understanding of what will take place and provide adequate help to wait tables. As you know the individual is at the mercy of the merchants of Silverton. Motel accommodations have always been a factor when planning for the weekend of the Festival. When you start adding up the costs of transportation, lodging, food and registration to join other barbershoppers for a day of singing, it becomes very hard to justify this expense. I believe this is what has happened and many are foregoing the Festival in favor of other activities closer to home which do not require overnight stays and restaurant meals.

Ring That Chord,

Carl

For information, here is how both of our choices for our 2012 Guest Quartet placed in Kansas City

40 The Crew *Almost Like Being In Love Then I'll Be Tired Of You*

41 The Elements *Fly Me To The Moon Original Dixieland One Step*

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would 'hate' to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

Silverton as Hank sees it

Silverton was, as always for me a very enjoyable experience. This is such a beautiful area and I always enjoy the lascape scenes. There are however some concerns about Silverton. The lodging facilities are ok, but not really that great for what they cost. I have stayed at different ones and this is just a general observation. Silverton is high elevation and a number of older attendees do have problems with that. I am even noticing it a bit, especially as to getting a good night of rest. Personally I feel that the afterglow was a shadow of the fun I had just a few years ago.

There are other questions as to Silverton. Obviously the economic slowdown has hit Silverton as well.. Several people mentioned the smaller number of tourists visiting the area over the last two years.

Yes, the number of attendees was down. I do not know why, but several possibilities. Was it advertised well enough at the various chapters? Somehow it would seem more people at the various

chapters could help spread the word. By the same token, does Silverton do enough PR to help or does Silverton have the ability or desire to help much in PR support? I personally do not believe the Silverton Chamber of Commerce gives much billing to the Barbershop Concert weekend. For example I picked up a Silver Chamber of Commerce 12 page Brochure. On page 3 is "Seasonal Attractions" for 2011. The very first item was the Silverton Brass Band. There were 8 major activities mentioned. The Barbershop weekend was not included. This listing was followed by a 2011 Calendar of events (by month). We were very briefly mentioned (item 4 out of 5 for the July events). I do not consider that very good PR. I would almost wonder - does the Chamber even care if we are there?

Perhaps a general questionnaire to all attendees would help get a better picture of the event.

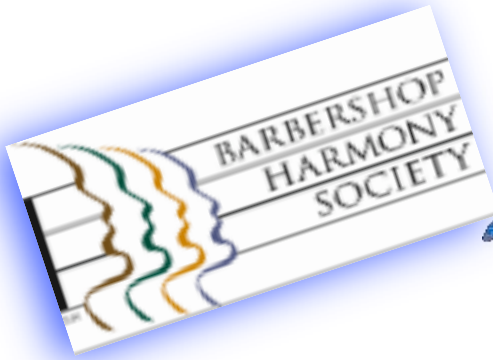
Hank

I think it would be great if the club would reserve a block of rooms in Silverton and go over together in a bus or at least a caravan. It's a problem for some of us "single" guys to organize all the details (when to reserve, when to go, how to go, where to stay, where to go, what to do) individually.

Note from Ed: Obviously we have missed the boat with proper and timely information. We have to do better in the future.

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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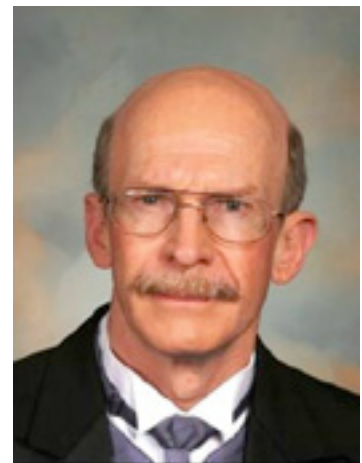
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The President's Corner with Larry Wilkinson

A tip of the hat to Jason Ward for such a fine job in putting the 2011 Silverton Barbershop Music Festival together.

I feel certain the rest of us have no idea of how much time and effort goes into organizing this event. In my opinion, it was one of the best in my 13 years of participating.

It was nice to recognize his predecessor, Pete Peterson for his service to the Festival since it's inception 25 years ago.



What you don't know is that RMD President **Lee Taylor** was in Silverton and Gary Wilson had the opportunity to sing in a quartet with him. Gary was also able to sing with **John Coffin** and **Rod Sgrignoli**. Talk about walking in tall cotton. Way to go, Gary.