

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

Canyon Chords



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DECEMBER 2016
Vol. 32 Number 12

PROBE
BARBERSHOP



The Sweet Adelines putting on a very entertaining show

Excellent Show by the DelRose Chapter of Sweet Adelines



As usual, the gals from Delta and Montrose put on a wonderful show in Delta with the help of the ladies from Grand Junction. This year the audience was treated to listen to about 30 very talented females on stage entertaining a nearly full house singing some really fun songs. The stage, the script and the music were all testimonial to a very creative group of minds.

The use of a realistic video loop of looking out a window with snow falling in the trees really added to the atmosphere of an early Christmas show. In fact it was so realistic that I was shocked to see the sun shining when I left at the show's conclusion.

The Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus was privileged again this year to share the stage with the lovely ladies all dressed as Santa's Elves. Very clever and very funny. We sang three Christmas Carols under the direction of President Larry Cooper and sounded pretty darn good. A quick count showed we had about 14 guys singing on stage.

The Delta High School Choir under the tutelage of Julia Nicholas did an excellent job on two very difficult arrangements. Wow, they were impressive to say the least. It would be wonderful if they could or would try a couple of barbershop arrangements.

Some of us skipped the always good afterglow in favor of supping some beer and munching a hamburger at a local watering joint, a joint that serves a nice variety of craft brew. Not a bad way to end a nice day.

A special thanks to the DelRose ladies for including us in this years production, and trust they will honor us by participating in our show in May. It wouldn't be the same without them.



Warming up before the show

And thanks to all the guys who sacrificed their Saturday afternoon to join the chorus on stage. The more we sing in public, the better we will get. Of course learning the songs won't hurt either.



Santa comes to Delta, along with the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus

A big thanks to Darnell Place-Wise and her crew from Delta Chamber of Commerce for arranging the early Christmas entertainment, the Parade of Lights, and the arrival of Santa along with the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Darnell is one of those unique people who can do everything all at the same time and make it look easy.

We were fortunate to be a part of this excellent welcome to Christmas on a great stage following a super soloist, a carol singing choir, and a really good high school jazz band. A movable (portable?) stage on a trailer frame was used to place all entertainers higher than the audience. Plus a great sound system was in place. I don't know who furnished it, but it sure helped all entertainers to reach the growing size of the audience. The narrow steep stairs to the stage, with no side rails was no problem for the young adults and kids entertaining, but it sure created a bunch of concern for us aging BCBC guys. Thanks again to Darnell; several strong and healthy men were available to help most of us get on and off the stage. Then, as darkness arrived, one of the organizers had lights installed on stage to help us old geezers see our music and get most of the words correct. Some had head lights, but they weren't needed.

When we were done, about 5:30, some of us wandered across the street to Daveto's for dinner. As one might expect, it was packed so they put all 7 of us in the back room, the same place we hold our board meetings. Of course the food was excellent

as usual. It was kind of funny when everyone suddenly got up and left the room, leaving mounds of uneaten food. We were confused until they all came back. Well of course, they had kids and the kids all wanted to watch the parade. Since we were left alone, our service was magnificent. But it always is anyway.

This was one of the funnest and bestest singouts we have done, and we are so happy that about 12 singers showed up to be a part. We need to do more of this kind of appearances if we have any hope to increase our membership.

None the less, it was a really good evening with really nice people who planned it. And it was not cold. A very neat evening.

Big thanks again to Darnell and her crew for allowing us to participate.



Caroling on stage on Delta's Main Street

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.

2017 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

PRESIDENT (2017)

Larry Cooper

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Taylor

SECRETARY (2018)

Chuck Frush

TREASURER (2018)

Rex Pierson

Practice & Performances VP (2017)

Dennis Olmstead

MEMBERSHIP VP (2018)

John Taylor

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2017)

John Thrasher

MUSIC VP (2017)

Vacant

COMMUNICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 year terms)

Bob Brethouwer

Larry Wilkinson

Tim Lund

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Larry Cooper

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Vacant

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

SUNSHINE GUY

Rex Pierson

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

Tom Chamberlain

Splinters from the Board

Notice: These are NOT the official minutes but merely present a tongue in cheek observation of our Board Meetings. Official minutes can be obtained from the Secretary.



It wasn't a full complement of board members but somewhere close to 8 showed up for food and conversation. Only missing were Olmstead and Taylor and maybe somebody else. Dennis requested a heads-up after the meeting. Taylor is still among the missing and may be chained to the bar as a Horsefly.

Tim Lund filled us in on all the work he has done in our perpetual search for a full-time chorus director. Requests for consideration has been sent out to at least 12 potential candidates with limited responses.

Reality is that expecting any hard-core commitment from any candidate at this time of year is just plain overly optimistic.

The traditional Installation Banquet will be held on January 5 at DaVeto's in Delta.

Coop promises to make all the arrangements and will furnish members the menu and costs pretty darn soon.

There was no mention of singing Valentines, which may mean it slipped

between the cracks or we just don't care this year. However, we do have a chance to discuss it at our next board meeting on January 10, 2017.

Right, that's next year.

John Thrasher agreed to put a couple of 'Help Wanted' ads in local newspapers hoping to get some additional interest in finding a director.

The rest of the short board meeting was spent appropriately on the upcoming May show and what in the heck are we going to do and when.

Pres. Coop will be out of our area from January 12 for about 3 weeks, if the creek don't rise. So we, the board and chorus, will be on our own to prepare a big surprise for Coop's return.

Coop was carefully maneuvered into accepting responsibility to choose songs for the 2017 May show, assuming we are going to have one. Now, if any of you chorus members want to get in on this, now is the time. Suggestions are not the answer. Committing to be on the Show Committee is. Want a say in how it is going? Get involved..

**Some minds are like concrete
Thoroughly mixed up
and permanently set.**

A Thought:

Wouldn't it be great if a Music VP would develop and keep a list of songs prioritized by how well they sound from the front? Wouldn't this make it simpler to choose songs for any spontaneous performance? Wouldn't it be great if we had a Music VP?



Caroling on Delta's Main



John Taylor

Dec. 14

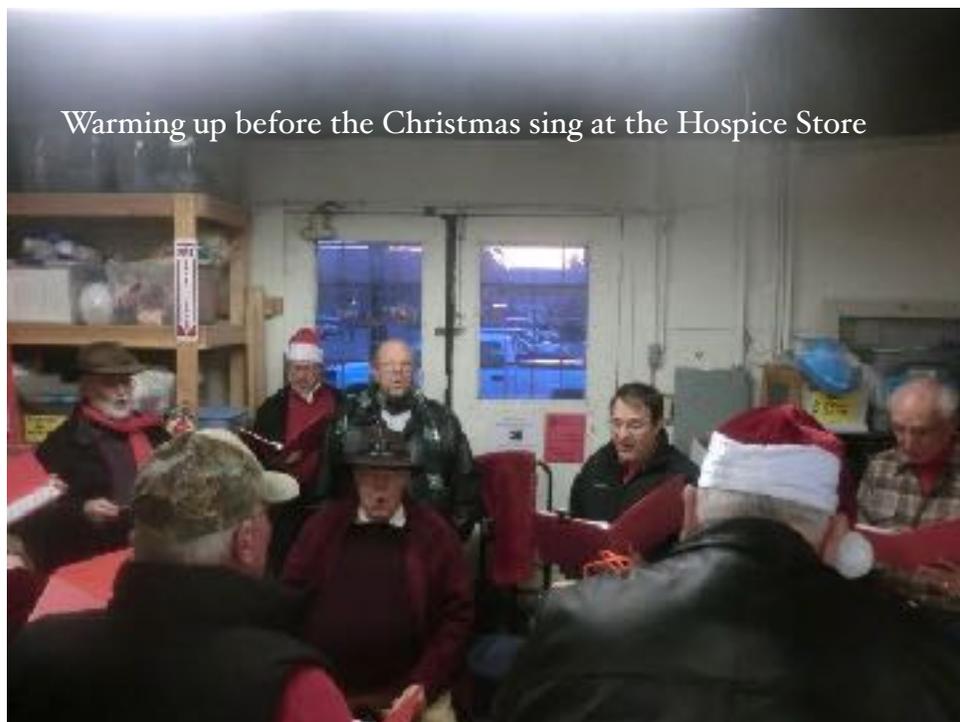
Carl Schultz

Dec. 30

Tom Chamberlain

Jan. 8

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



Warming up before the Christmas sing at the Hospice Store

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.



ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793

Tough Question: Which is better: a C- Note or home-made creme pies of many different colors?

How about both on the same night with a beer and sandwich thrown in for good measures? Hey, now that is Christmas Spirit.

The Homestead Senior Living Facility is a beautiful place. It is full of beautiful people with sophisticated manners. Singing at Homestead in the library or whatever is always a treat. The folks who show to listen are very polite and appreciative. We sang in an atmosphere of refined acceptance, even when we were slightly confused about which song we might be singing. We all felt good about sharing our overflowing Christmas enthusiasm, with those who appreciate the better things of life and the season.

So we said adio, somewhat puffed over our performance, and proceeded to a place of less refinement, a place where raucous laughter and loud music mixed with huge hamburgers and 16 pints on selected evenings with selective food. There we ate and supped and even sang a little as our next caroling appointment approached. In order to protect those who chose not to be seen in such a place, there are no photos available.

Then on to the San Juan Living Center, a very fine place once being distinguished in having Dr. Bob as their Medical Director for over 20 years. And that 20 years paid off ... for we/us, the singing chorus of the Black Canyon. Now some would not notice, and others would be way too considerate to mention that some, just a few, maybe only one, failed to remove themselves from the temptations abounding the establishment of food and drink (not in that order) to fulfill their sworn obligation to sing to less fortunate in return for pie, not money. Yes, it does sound somewhat callous, but Dr. Bob arranged it many years ago, and the result shows on many of us.

And without naming any names, one would be hard pressed to not notice that it was the well-dressed and festive gentlemen in the top hat that was among the missing. Of course, you know it was John, that John, the very dapper John ... not that the other John is not dapper, but not quite as dapper. In fact, the dapper John is slightly dapperer than the other John, thus making him the dapperist John of all Johns.

So John or no John, but with the lesser dapper John, the chorus still feeling fine plunged through the notebook of selected carols, doing most of them the credit they deserve with a couple of them still appearing as strangers.

But the pie was excellent. The pie was exceptional, the pie was incredible. There was chocolate creme pie, banana creme pie, coconut pie, and cherry cheesecake creme pie. There was mulled wine, cider, and more pie. There was plenty of pie, lots of pie, more pie.

It was a glorious evening of decking the halls with songs of jolly or however that goes.

When I was a kid, I told my folks that I was glad Christmas only came once a year because it was just too overwhelming. I guess it still is.



Father Christmas Dockter



**Dapper John and
St. Larry**



Singing at Homestead

Rocky Road backing up a Montrose High School octet on their Christmas Show. Singing Jingle Bells



Colorow caroling on December 14

Singing Carols for the residents of Colorow

T'was another blessed evening of good singing to wonderful folks in the audience. Less than a full chorus met so sing for a large group of families eating excellent Christmas dinners in two different rooms.

Our reward was a dinner after, a most appreciated plate of turkey, dressing, mashed 'taters and gravy, yams, and a roll, finished off with a wonderful piece of chocolate cream pie. Our big thanks to Grady who led us in all the carols, even some we didn't know but stumbled thru anyway. Coop and the rest of Rocky Road showed up at the end and, with Vern on tenor where he is supposed to be, finished off the evening by doing a few more carols to the folks of patience. Some ended up at the Church for some more singing and some didn't.

Needless to say, it was a good season of singing carols.





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."

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Keep the Whole World Singing

Membership VP Taylor Sez ...



Singing Christmas Carols is good for the soul.



Watch your thoughts. They become words and words will get you into trouble.



I'm not lazy.....I just don't care