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Singing every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at the United Methodist Church of Olathe.

**The Show is over and like any show, there are comments and opinions.**

Here are some of them

Charmaine Estes Wrote:

What I liked best about BCBC's annual show was the beautiful sound of the voices and the clarity of the words. There was no need to go home and look up the lyrics of a song on the Internet --whether the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus and quartets, or the Sweet Adelines, or the headliner quartet (Average Joes, this year) sang it. All that practice is worth it, people! It feels like love when the MUSIC does the talking.

What the heck just happened?



John Reick wrote  
 \_\_Not our best effort. We had trouble with songs we never have trouble with. You Belong to Me was not ready & should have been deleted from show. (Edited to protect the delicate sensitivities of the guilty)

Bob Brethouwer wrote  
 I think the show went well, in spite of our (lack of) preparations , good quartet, MHS men's chorus surprisingly good, the girls (women) good but exceeded their time (allocation), (Grand Mesa A Cappella), Sound Production (sang) with pleasing tones.

**God**  
*Bless*  
**America**



A quiet man is a thinking man  
but a quiet woman is a mad  
woman.



A part of the Afterglow crowd  
eating sugar cookies and waiting  
patiently for some more  
Average Joe singing.

As far as I'm  
concerned, we  
should stand up all  
the time.



John Taylor wrote

Overall I think it was one of our best

efforts. The audience was appreciative. Many are regular attendees from over the years. The program was organized well. Transitions were seemingly seamless.

Having no M.C. worked. Our guys filled in the gaps well and conveyed the information needed. However, I'd like to see a bit more humor added. There's nothing wrong with telling a joke that ties in with a song or an act! One of the biggest audience responses was to the chorus's group hand gesture at the end of "I'll Fly Away." More choreography?

The show opening needed work. The curtains opened to a mostly unhappy looking (maybe tired) group of older men.....no movement except for the director getting into place....and then, "Harmonize Medley" was delivered with minimal enthusiasm. It could have been louder and could have had more pizzaz. Mobile members could have walked (danced) on from the wings to surround our sitting members to cover the awkward silent opening.

And more people need to SMILE! This is supposed to be FUN! Isn't it?

Average Joes were Awesome Joes. Their harmonies were spot on.....maybe the best we've had on our show.

Their jokes and non singing banter were not the greatest, but we hired them to sing...not to be comedians. I loved the interaction the tenor and bass had with some of the high school students before the after-glow. It appeared that Jeff and Chaz were making positive impressions!

We might need to have our announcers practice with live microphones. Portions of some speaking parts got missed. Don't know whether it was not being close enough to the microphone or the sound system in general.



### BOYS IN TUXES

I would have never believed that being in a room with a bunch of teen-age boys switching from their street clothes to a TUX could be so entertaining. As you may assume, boys live in a different world than girls, unless they aren't sure which bathroom to use. The transformation from common street thugs to distinguished gentlemen was incredible. But it was easier for some. Some donned a Tux as easily and smoothly as Frank Sinatra and looked as suave as Kirk Douglas. Others better resembled a walrus trying to slip into a bikini, but once suited, still looked great. One of the boys was determined to put his black tux pants over his street pants because it was easier. Goodhue and I about fell off the chairs laughing while watching them. The 'shoe' pile and attempts to find which might fit your feet is another story. You gotta love these kids. They sounded and LOOKED wonderful. More power to them. Barbershopping needs them. Hopefully they will need us.

I think the sound guy was doing the best he could under the conditions and with the equipment he has.

Maybe when BCBC gets rich we will invest in our own sound equipment.

Highlights: Good job by Larry Estes filling in for voiceless Tim Davis in Rocky Road; Sound Production Quartet (They've STILL got it!); Grady's dedication of "Over the Rainbow" to his brother and our fellow BCBC member, Don; Men's Montrose High School Choir (The next generation of Barbershop singers appears to be in good hands.); Grand Mesa Acapella (These gals add a lot to our show and they keep getting better. Steppin' Up! Quartet is particularly impressive!); Average Joes (They sure know how to harmonize!); Tim Davis singing, although quietly, at the after-glow; Good job by our directors (Thanks Coop, Grady and Tom for all you do.); Extra work by a few of our members to make sure the SHOW is a success: Especially Tim Lund, Larry Estes, Vern Dockter, and Larry Cooper. Also, John Reick for the after-glow cookies!

Grady Weiszbrod wrote:

I'm very pleased with the Chorus performance. Sure, we had some weak spots (lyrics on Harmonize Medley) but overall, a strong show. The guests I had invited were very impressed & were extremely complimentary of the whole show.

I was greatly pleased by the strength of the guys from Montrose. I could hear their voices behind us on Lida Rose! Wow. They knew it and sang it!

The Average Joes were superb in harmony but I felt they lost connection with their audience in that the "entertainment" aspect or component of their performance needs attention.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the after glow. (My brother pointed out a rip in the back seam of my trousers. Any other activity could have proven to be embarrassing!)

Thanks to BCBC for providing a fun evening of music.

Carl Schultz wrote:

Found your email asking for comments about the show. From where I stood it was hard to hear other voice parts. Don't think there was any monitor feedback but might just be my hearing aids. I do think we sounded good. When I went out into the audience the spoken word was not always understandable. The use of a mic is worthless if you don't keep it in range of your voice, or if you don't speak distinctly. Again, I'll blame it on hearing aids. Afterglow by the guest quartet was not much better than the last time they did our show. Perhaps I'm spoiled, but the headline quartet usually know enough songs and do not need to repeat ones they sang on the show, unless requested to do a repeat. In the future we should ask that a 30 minute afterglow be provided with no repeat songs from the show.

Tom Chamberlain wrote:

I thought it went better than expected. No major screw ups, although our harmony needs some work. The guest quartet was also better than expected. The Joes are definitely better than average. They did a great job.

If we could get a Pavilion date later in the year, we would also get Del Wiesner on stage to help our lead section. We need some young blood! (Del would be pleased to be included in the 'young blood' description)(As best as I know, Rex has already booked April 11 for 2020. There were basically NO options.)



SOUND PRODUCTION rides (roars?) again



Birthday 1  
 Birthday 2

date  
 date

Dennis Olmstead wrote (Dennis believes in efficient use of key words. I added the bullets to make it look official)  
**Audience view BCBC show and Afterglow**

- From the last row of the Pavilion.
- Stage simple but effective.
- Mass Chorus impressive.
- Audience not as large as usual perhaps more paid advertising, or promotion next year.
- Excellent that High School there, give them an opportunity to participate, brought in their parents.
- Guest Quartet young, liked their contact with High School before start of afterglow.

Sometimes emotions get in the way of singing an emotional song especially when the emotional and poignant introduction and dedication causes emotions to overflow and run down one's cheek. Grady did that to us. Grady dedicated Over the Rainbow to his brother Don, who was a BCBC member before Grady. I doubt there was a dry eye after the intro and singing of this beautiful song.

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

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



# BARBERSHOP

## ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

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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.

### 2019 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

#### PRESIDENT (2019)

Larry Cooper

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Taylor

#### SECRETARY ( 2020)

Chuck Frush

#### TREASURER ( 2020)

Rex Pierson

#### PROGRAM & EVENTS VP (2019)

Tim Lund

#### MEMBERSHIP VP ( 2020)

Open

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2019)

Larry Estes

#### MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP (2019)

Grady Weiszbrod

#### COMMUNICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 year terms)

Bob Brethouwer

Dan Baer

Phil Plumb

#### MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Larry Cooper

Grady Weiszbrod

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

#### SUNSHINE GUY

Rex Pierson

#### CHAPTER HISTORIAN

Tom Chamberlain

Rex suggested again that we should consider only doing one show every two years. As usual, the responses were less than enthusiastic. So it will be discussed later, and again.

# Splinters from the Board



Not official minutes, not even close, but a rather cynical and sometimes sarcastic observation of what happened or should have happened or possibly shouldn't have happened. Minutes are probably available from somebody, somewhere, sometime.

Big Surprise, this time we started the evening events with a mixture of palate delicacies at Daveto's, just in case none of us had lunch. Almost the entire Board except for the those who didn't come and those who came too late to have dinner, which was not many, showed up to solve most of problems before the solving problem time begun. Then it did. .

A rehash of the just ended show seemed the main topic for the evening. It was proudly pointed out that we had ONE MORE ticket collected this year than last. Nothing like some improvement to fuel optimism. Besides, we sold twice as many tickets at the phone/Pavilion/ credit card option as last year. We are on a roll.

After the enthusiasm faded, Larry E. started the planning for the 2020 show, which is unique in its inception. He proposed a SONG, and offered to teach us the SONG and get learning tracks and other not so cheap BHS aids to make sure we would know the SONG by Show time. The SONG is "Nevertheless." The Board jumped all over any attempt to plan anything so Larry has Board full support. In fact, possibly by motion, Larry will direct us for this SONG on the Show. History was made.

The status of the calendar planning session was discussed at length with no obvious decisions noted ... by me. If some floated up amid the hot air bubbles of good intentions, I may have missed it if one burst.

It was mentioned that much of the fun we used to have during practice nights is slipping away. Perhaps some various activities should be included in the evening events. Craft? Fun singing?



## MEMBERSHIP NIGHT

Somebody, probably at a Board Meeting, thought that a Membership Night the Thursday after our show when we don't even have a Membership VP was a fine idea, and the other somebodies at the Board Meeting probably agreed because it did happen. So we had left over cookies, a relish tray, some strawberries, and a tub of caramel corn in our attempt to convince the 4 or 5 guys who showed up would continue to show up even though the snacks might not.

It was good to see Gary Plumb again after all these years, and he still has the pipes Phil wishes he had.

After the not-so-much-fun painful tag singing along with some other songs we should know better, the purpose of the evening of having fun to convince all guests that we love fun when mixed with song, and even more fun when the song is sung in harmony, usually 4 parts, finally began. Rather than to continue to convince the guests that we were not great at reading music we have never seen before, which was obvious, we broke for snacks to allow the guests who showed up for fun could have some. So they did. They sang songs that they know, and we know, in groups laughing and eating. Well now, that's what it's all about. That's what we do at 6:15 every Thursday sans snacks.

Big thanks to Larry and Charmaine for the alternative snacks to the sugar bomb leftovers.

What the heck. Maybe we don't need a Membership VP anyway.

It has been discussed and cussed many times in the past few years that we are not having nearly as many public singouts as we used to. Dates were set at the Calendar Planning Session but no details were resolved. We are done with the Show and now is the time for seriously thinking about improving our public visibility as encouragement for folks to attend our Annual Shows. At this point the Board is somewhat stagnate in providing any activity. It is discussed in the manner of "Anyone have any ideas?" Ideas then are listened to and agreed with and dropped. And nothing gets done. Isn't it about time something should get done?

Think about it.

