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November 2019  
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Singing every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at the United Methodist Church of Olathe.

## Spectacular Spooktacular in Delta

The Gals of Sweet Adelines did their job. We joined them in a performance in Delta and must say they really did a wonderful job of planning and executing an excellent production of fun music to a very small audience. That is the sad part. Their effort and execution certainly deserves a large audience to enjoy their talent. But it didn't happen in Delta. We hope it will happen in Grand Junction, but most audiences are fickle to say the least.

The set, the announcer, the theme, and the script were all excellent, much superior to others, including us. The chorus attention to the nuances of barbershop music was incredible and without criticism. The show, with the addition of the Delta High School Choir, was a huge success. Musically that is. Financially? Only they will know when all the details are assembled.

The concept was timely and the execution was the same. The women of barbershop harmony, not including the new philosophy recently adapted by BHS, did the hobby of 4-part harmony proud. Mixing the voices of men and women in order to increase the revenue is questionable. BHS seems to think it is the future ... for BHS. I guess time will tell.

The stage was first class, all in line with a Halloween presentation. The script was funny and typical. The guy who played Dracula did a fantastic job. Wish I knew his name, he would make a positive addition to our show as our MC or even as a member. We could use his creative and speaking talent to help us engage our audience on our shows. BCBC did a credible job after a rocky start at the early 'walk through.' See, the deal is basses spend most of their time singing words if the song "Silhouette" as "dm dm dm dang" repeated and repeated. When it comes time to sing other words, it just seems to confuse them, including me. So the normally overwhelming bass section simply quit singing when they are supposed to sing. Well, other guys noticed and thought maybe they should quit too. Guess how that sounded? So Coop went over the words but he couldn't remember them either. Ahhh. The joys. But during the show it went passably. At least we got away with it.

Me, the guy writing this, sat next to Rex in the front row. "Sat" is the key word. Some of us chose to sit on a stool for obvious reasons. To sit in front of Stannard, Plumb, and Graybill, all who are sure they know all the words and notes, and all who are absolutely convinced that loud is much better than accurate, is an experience others should enjoy. It is difficult to explain. Love those guys!

# Fabulous Fall Concert

The Community of Cedaredge and surrounding towns and villages owe a BIG THANKS to Grady for his involvement with the town and area. His efforts and energy provides wonderful entertainment for the residents. A good crowd, probably more than attended the Sweet Adeline Concert in Delta, showed up to listen and marvel at the music of the Cedaredge Community Band, followed by BCBC.

The band, and the music provided, was excellent. All band members who work with Grady to practice for public performances deserves a big round of applause.

The performance of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus in the second half of the show was a little more tenuous. First, the selection of songs was perfect. They were songs we all knew well and do well. Most of the time. Then, when we called to the stage as the only entertainment for the second half of the show, it became obvious as we assembled on stage that Coop was not with us. Some opined that he went to his car to get his vest, but that can't take that long. But it did. Coop said he had to tie his own tie and that is not a normal task he usually performs. So we had lots of time to grumble and pretend that we knew what was going on, which we didn't.

Sunday afternoon is apparently not a prime time to schedule a public performance if we hope to have a good gathering of singers. This Sunday may be an example. As best as my memory remembers, we only had 3 leads (or in Rex's words; 2 1/2) to carry the melody. One tenor provided the high range harmony, and one or maybe two, depending on what Sam was singing and if Grady was directing, carried the garbage (baritone) part. Oh, and when Grady directed a couple of songs, there was probably no baritone since Coop probably tried to help the lead section with some volume. Then of course there were basses. If memory serves, there were 6 of them competing with all the other parts. Of course there was no real competition as basses seem to relish on being louder than everyone else. And they were..

Actually since Coop was busy tying his tie, we failed to line up as we had during rehearsal, just an hour prior. At rehearsal, we formed in two lines bunched around the center point to improve on hearing all parts.

When it came to 'show time,' we strung out in a single line making it nearly impossible to hear the tenor and bari. To hear the leads was just as difficult as well.

I was, since I sat on a stool for the performance, was placed next to Rex in what was supposed to be the front row, also on a stool. Rex sings lead and I try to sing bass, so that was the dividing line for parts. From my observation, the basses were not able or did not much care what the rest of the chorus was doing, especially concerning the tempo. Basses, you know, sing a bunch of dm-de-dm-dm stuff to establish the tempo in many songs. So possibly the rest of the chorus could not hear the basses, which is hard to believe, or they were bound and determined to sing the songs the way they want to regardless of the bass tempo. The result was not what is usually observed and hoped for. In more than one song, it was apparent that the timing between the basses and the rest of the chorus was only slightly better than non-existent. The question is: "Who should be listening to whom and who should modify their tempo?" Perhaps someone will provide an answer before we face this problem again. Of course, watching the Director is an obvious response, one which seems to be universally ignored.

However, Coop did say that he was certain we actually sounded better out front (maybe he meant outside) probably because of the sophisticated sound system and a very knowledgeable operator. We hope so.

Some day we, the chorus, are going to have to face the reality that if we really do want to have more community singouts, we have to support them by attending. Bass attendance is not the problem other than the volume, but we sure do need more leads, tenors, and baris to show up to round out the harmony.

*You don't get new members by singing poorly in public.*

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)

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#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John Taylor

#### SECRETARY ( 2020)

Chuck Frush

#### TREASURER ( 2020)

Rex Pierson

#### PROGRAM & EVENTS VP (2019)

Tim Lund

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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

Sutton and Graybill agreed to design and provide the Show Poster and Show Program. Ken indicated an interest in becoming a M-A-L.

If there were any motions, Chuck will have them in his minutes.

# 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 somewhere, sometime.

After a week postponement due to Frush flu, a meeting was held in the front room of Davetos. The same excellent food was now presented in a brand new menu designed to rearrange the previous fares in a more confusing matter, while adding a buck to them to pay for the cost of the new menus. No matter, most of us had the same thing we always have had with little or no grumbling about the price hikes.

Rex and Coop jointly announced that we now have tentatively obtained a Guest Quartet for our April Concert/Show. They are from Salt Lake City, called "SOUND CHECK" Rex assured us they were not going to be expensive but costs will remain generally unknown until after the show.

The impending shadow of not having a traditional election was discussed. As a result and without further action, the Chapter will enter 2020 without an election and with the following positions vacant.

- President
- Program VP
- Membership VP
- Public Relations VP
- Music VP
- All Members at Large

Dan Baer, expiring M-A-L agreed to provide the weekly rehearsal schedule, now being done by expiring Program VP Lund.

Perennial discussions about ticket prices, discounts, member sales, credit card sales at the Pavilion, sales at local businesses, sponsors, sponsor comp tickets based on amount of donation, high school choir participation, Sweet Adeline participation, time allocated to each choir, reducing the show repeating schedule to every two years, etc, etc., dominated the meeting. Then we went home.



## Some Snippets and other stuff.

More guys showed up for the Spooktacular Show than generally show up for our weekly practices. Hmm, wonder if there is a message here? Seems like we had 14 or 15 so sing on the Sweet Ad show in Delta with a good contingent of leads. Good going guys. That's why we practice so we can sing to others, especially when we can sing pretty good. Or well, Or fine. I always get confused about when to use which word. Or which word to use when? But that ends in a preposition or proposition which is not right or correct, depending on what word the world of PC is currently approving, which is not much. Enough.

Just came across this really good YouTube explanation about what barbershop singing is all about. I heartedly recommend all of you watch it. The 'opportunity' is for us to use this as one of the recruiting tools, assuming we might have a guest of two out of the efforts from Grady and others. When the Daddies were active, we used to use a similar technique to sing to music classes at high schools. We loved it and felt the kids did too., but no new members joined. Perhaps Rocky Road might consider it, if they already haven't.

<https://youtu.be/EXQNrSUIrTo>

If and when we ever get a real Membership VP, perhaps this tool could aid them.



Bob Brethouwer	November 6
Tim Davis	November 12
Dan Baer	November 29

*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.



## ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793



EVERY DAY IS VETERAN'S DAY. REMEMBER THOSE WHO PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM. EVERYDAY.

God Bless America



Thanks to Paul White for his great newsletter from San Angelo, Texas.. I pilfer a lot of good stuff from his site. Like everything on this page was Paul's

Ah, we love Paul.







Pretty soon now we will start reviewing the Christmas Carols we will sing at Colorow Care Center, possibly San Juan Living Center, and maybe as part of the performance for the dignitaries of Orchard City, a City that includes all the other cities that use water in the Surface Creek drainage, which all do. It is a unique community with questionable boundaries and citizens. But they asked us to sing for their Christmas Banquet again, and we will as far as I know.

Be patient, Christmas will be here and gone before you blink. You will know its' over when you check the balance of your credit card.



## Teach the Children to Sing



### 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."

## Keep the Whole World Singing

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Dr. Sam is a busy guy. That's the reason he is always late, but he does show up when possible. And Sam sings most, if not all of the barbershop parts. Plus he plays trombone in Grady's Cedaredge Band. On Sunday at the Concert, Sam played his Bone for the first half. Then, in the second half, he sort of waffled in between helping Vern with tenor, or helping Grady with baritone. If needed, he could have helped Rex, Dan, and Tim with lead. Maybe he did.

One thing for sure, he didn't need to help the basses. Not saying they didn't need help cuz they did, but not in numbers.

And Grady is also a busy guy. He, as you noticed, was the guy waving a stick in front to the band members, hoping some of them would know what it means, not at all like the chorus members. Then he had to wave his arms in front of us guys for a couple of songs, and then be the only guy singing baritone, unless Sam was helping, which might have been. It could change depending on which song we were doing.

So a special thanks to our chorus floating part singers covered by Sam, Grady, and Coop. Yeah, Coop proly helped the leads when Grady was waving his arms.



The Society for the Preservation and  
Propagation of Barbershop Quartet  
Singing in the United States