

## “Twitterpated”

Curtains open to reveal Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus.

### 1. Chorus sings *Brand New Day*.

**Narrator:** Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for coming to our show this afternoon/evening. We are the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus and we have some exciting entertainment lined up for you. We have special guests **Momentous**, an award winning quartet from Provo, Utah. We have our own ladies counterpart acapella group, *The Del-Rose Sweet Adelines*, from the Delta-Montrose area. Also, we have our own quartets: *Rocky Road* and \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_. We hope you'll sit back and enjoy some good old fashioned musical entertainment. You'll hear some old songs and a few newer songs. You might even hear the occasional ringing of a chord or two. But what you won't hear are any Kanye West, Dr. Dre, Lady Gaga or Taylor Swift songs. (We're saving THOSE for next year.)

How did you like our opener, *Brand New Day!*? (*applause?*)

Yes, it is a brand new day. That song reminds me of new days, singing, and my very *first* day, my birthday, only a few years ago. Going along with our theme tonight, “young love”, a young man's *first* love is his mother. I remember when I walked out of the womb. (I was very precocious and mature for my age.) I had a Red Ryder BB gun in one hand and a cell phone in the other. My mother said, “You're going to put your eye out with that!” So, I traded in the cell phone for a sharp stick.

I said: “I'm going out to play.”

She said: “With those holes in your pants?”

I said: “No.....with the kids next door.”

This next song is dedicated to all the mothers and sisters that were tormented in the 1950's.....by this next song. It was made popular by Harry Belafonte in 1956 and most young men of this era, including me, marched around their houses teasing their mothers and sisters in a loud voice with this verse which we will (thanks to our director) leave out when WE sing it. But just for you, tonight, here's the verse.....

A beautiful bunch o' ripe banana, Daylight come and me wan' go home  
Hide the deadly black TARANTULA!  
Daylight come and me wan' go home

No wonder we didn't have a lot of bananas at my house in the 50's. The song originated as a Jamaican folk song, thought to be sung by banana boat workers in Jamaica. The workers would sing as they loaded the day's harvest of bananas onto ships during the night. Their shift would be over at daylight, their load tallied for payment, and they could then go home to sleep. Here is our version of “*The Banana Boat Song*.”

## 2. Chorus sings *The Banana Boat Song*.

**Narrator:** Some of you are very familiar with the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus and know a lot of our repertoire. Well, gosh, we've been performing in Montrose and Delta for 40 years now! This just happens to be our 40th year show!

For those of you who follow barbershop songs, there seems to be a theme throughout the genre of "young men in love". Just flip through any of our "classic songbooks" and you'll see what I mean. Here are a few examples: My Wild Irish Rose; Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie; Sweet and Lovely (That's What You Are to Me); Let Me Call You Sweetheart; Sweet, Sweet Roses of Morn; The Story of the Rose (Heart of My Heart); You're the Flower of My Heart, Sweet Adeline.....

Yes, (sigh), "young men in love." Well, actually, if you look at our membership list, you'll see a lot of OLD men in love. But that's beside the point. Here are a few Doo-wop tunes that should remind you of the days not so long ago when you yourself.....were..... "twitterpated."

Here's a tune that was recorded by the *The Drifters* in 1964. It has been covered by many artists. The lyric describes a tryst between a man and his beloved in a seaside town, who plan to privately meet "out of the sun" and out of sight from everyone else under a boardwalk.

## 3. Chorus sings *Under the Boardwalk*.

**Narrator:** Well, young people in love often get so twitterpated that they can't think straight. It reminds me of a story about:

11 people - ten men and one woman - hanging onto a rope that came down from a helicopter.

They all decided that one person should get off, because if they didn't, the rope would break and everyone would die.

No one could decide who should go, so finally, the woman gave a really touching speech saying how she would give up her life to save the others, because women were used to giving up things for their husbands and children, giving in to men, and not receiving anything in return.

When she finished speaking, all the men started clapping.

Here's a tune from 1957, made famous by a doo-wop group called The Rays about a guy who is so twitterpated he gets discombobulated and forgets where his girlfriend lives.....Silhouettes.

#### 4. Chorus sings *Silhouettes*.

**Narrator:** This next tune was written by Gene Pitney and Cayet Mangiaracina. (Try to say THAT ten times really fast!) Johnny Duncan recorded it in 1960. The next year, Ricky Nelson had a hit with it and there were several other artists who recorded the tune over the years.

We, here in the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus, often change the lyrics to *Hello, Mary Ann*, in deference to our esteemed Director, Mary Ann Rathburn, instead of just *Hello, Mary Lou*. We're all in love with Mary Ann! But here it is in its original form: Hello, Mary Lou.

#### 5. Chorus sings *Hello Mary Lou*.

**Narrator:** There once was a time where there came an interruption to a young man's love life.....the call to military service. **Note: There are alternative jokes here, if the following is too risqué.**

Here's a story told between Navy men and the Marines. It remains to be verified either way:

A Marine and a sailor were sitting in a bar one day arguing over which was the superior service.

After a swig of beer the Marine says, 'Well, we had Iwo Jima.'

Arching his eyebrows, the sailor replies, 'We had the Battle of Midway.'

'Not entirely true', responded the Marine. 'Some of those pilots were Marines, in fact, Henderson Field on Guadalcanal was named after a Marine pilot killed at the Battle of Midway.'

The sailor responds, 'Point taken.'

The Marine then says, 'We Marines were born at Tunn Tavern!'

The sailor, nodding agreement, says, 'But we had John Paul Jones.'

The argument continued until the sailor comes up with what he thinks will end the discussion. With a flourish of finality he says..... 'The Navy invented sex!'

The Marine replies, 'That is true, but it was the Marines who introduced it to women.'

(See alternative jokes below.)

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General McKenzie was in charge of the Navy, and he was visiting his colleague General Marshall, who was in charge of the Army. McKenzie arrives at the military camp and is greeted by Marshall. They both walk around the place, and McKenzie asks: "So how are your men?" "Very well trained, General. McKenzie." "I hope so. You see, my men over at the Navy are so well trained, you could see they're the bravest men all over the country." "Well, my men are very brave, too." "I'd like to see that." So Marshall calls private Cooper and says: "Private Cooper! I want you to stop that tank coming here with your body!" "Are you crazy? It'd kill me, you idiot! I'm out of here!" As private Cooper ran away, Marshall turned to a bewildered McKenzie and said: "You see? You have to be pretty brave to talk like that to a general."

The reason the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines bicker amongst themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For instance, Take the simple phrase "secure the building". The Army will post guards around the place. The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors. The Marines will kill everybody inside and set up a headquarters. The Air Force will take out a 5 year lease with an option to buy.

On some air bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, "What time is it?" The tower responded, "Who is calling?" The aircraft replied, "What difference does it make?" The tower replied, "It makes a lot of difference. If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock. If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours. If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells. If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3. If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon."

A trio of old veterans were bragging and jokes about the heroic exploits of their ancestors one afternoon down at the VFW hall. "My great grandfather, at age 13," one declared proudly, "was a drummer boy at Shiloh." "Mine," boasts another, "went down with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn." "I'm the only soldier in my family," confessed vet number three, "but if my great grandfather was living today he'd be the most famous man in the world." "Really? What'd he do?" his friends wanted to know. "Nothing much. But he would be 165 years old."

Seriously, now, the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus sings a tribute to all of our armed forces from the Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Army, and Air Force.

If you are a veteran please stand or raise a hand when your branch is named, so that we may recognize you. WE SINCERELY THANK YOU for your service.

## 6. Chorus sings *Armed Forces Medley*.

**Narrator:** Well, after the boys get out of the service they are anxious to resume their main pursuit.....chasing girls. Resuming relationships or beginning new ones is a challenge.

This is the fairy tale that could have been read to us when we were little:

Once upon a time in a land far away,  
a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess  
happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues  
on the shores of an unpolluted pond in a verdant meadow near her castle.

The frog hopped into the princess' lap  
and said: 'Elegant Lady,  
I was once a handsome prince,  
until an evil witch cast a spell upon me.

One kiss from you, however,  
and I will turn back  
into the dapper, young prince that I am  
and then, my sweet, we can marry

and set up housekeeping in your castle  
with my mother,  
where you can prepare my meals,  
clean my clothes, bear my children,  
and forever feel  
grateful and happy doing so. '  
That night, as the princess dined sumptuously  
on lightly sauteed frog legs  
seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce,  
she chuckled and thought to herself: I don't really think so.

Well, however you take it, it's Sweet and Lovely (That's What You Are to Me)

### 7. Chorus sings Sweet and Lovely.

**Narrator:** It's our 40th year! Yes we have been singing our songs for 40 years here in Western Colorado. Please..... please hold the applause. We are embarrassed. Here's a little medley that we call Polecat Medley, incorporating some songs that were sung around a barbershop pole back when..... barbershop songs were actually sung at a barbershop!!!

### 8. Chorus sings Barbershop Medley: My Wild Irish Rose, Down Our Way, Shine on Me.

Time for BCBC quartets ? **Narrator:** Let's here from our local Black Canyon Quartets: Here's Rocky Road singing: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrator:** Well, unfortunately we get older.

You may remember some hit songs from the 60's. Performers are now revising them. Here are some of the new songs to accommodate aging baby boomers:

They include:

Herman's Hermits --- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker .

Ringo Starr --- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends.

The Bee Gees -- - How Can You Mend a Broken Hip.

Roberta Flack--- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face.

Johnny Nash --- I Can't See Clearly Now.

Paul Simon--- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver

The Commodores --- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom.

Marvin Gaye --- Heard It Through the Grape Nuts.

Procol Harem--- A Whiter Shade of Hair.

Leo Sayer --- You Make Me Feel Like Napping.

The Temptations --- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone.

Here's a REAL Beatles tune from 1967. When I'm Sixty-Four.

### 9. Chorus sings When I'm Sixty-Four.

**Narrator:** UNDERSTANDING WOMEN (A MAN'S PERSPECTIVE)

I know I'm not going to understand women. I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax, pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root, and still be afraid of a spider.

**MARRIAGE SEMINAR**

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, "It is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes." He addressed the man, "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?" Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"

Tom is recovering in the hospital.

This next song is an older tune from 1945. It was written by Buddy Kaye and Howard Steiner. Our arrangement was inspired by The Gas House Gang and Boston Common. It was made popular by the Mills Brothers back in the day. It is about loving again after one has lost the love one once pursued.

This is: Don't Be a Baby, Baby.

**10. Chorus sings *Don't Be a Baby, Baby.***

**Narrator:** As you can probably tell from the songs, "our young man in love" has gotten a bit older and hopefully a bit wiser. He still likes the songs from his youth, but if you listen closely to the lyrics of this next song you'll hear that he's not all about anticipation now, but is starting to "remember."

Here a little "doo wop" love tune called, *In the Still of the Nite*, a 1956 hit for the Five Satins. Later Boyz II Men redid the song with huge success in the early 1990's. Take it away, boys.

**11. Chorus sings *In the Still of the Nite (I'll Remember).***

Ahh, yes. I remember. After being married for 40 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 40 years ago we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white TV, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year-old gal.

Now I have a \$500,000 home, a \$45,000 car, nice big bed and plasma screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 65-year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman.

She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year-old gal and she would make sure that I would once again be.....

living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve a mid-life crisis...

Our next song is one of our most romantic favorites. It is, also, one of our older tunes, written in 1912 by Percy Wenrich and Edward Madden. Mr. Wenrich wrote another hit a few years earlier in 1909 called "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet." (For you youngsters out there, a "bonnet" was a kind of cone shaped hat for women.)

This song is called, "Moonlight Bay."

## 12. Chorus sings *Moonlight Bay*.

**Narrator:** We hope you have enjoyed yourselves this evening/afternoon following our twitterpated young man in love. Stay tuned for more barbershop music from the Del Rose Sweet Adelines and our guest quartet: *Momentous* in the second half of the show.

For now, as the chorus anticipates the midpoint of our 40th Anniversary Show, we would like to end OUR part with a patriotic song written by Julia Ward Howe in 1861 linking the judgment of the wicked at the end of time with the American Civil War. We have used this song to end our shows for several years now, and it seems to be an audience favorite.

We don't know for sure.....whether they really like the song or if they're just happy that our show is ending..... at any rate, at the end our audience always stands, applauds, and walks out. Not necessarily in that order.

Here's Battle Hymn of the Republic.

## Chorus sings *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

Curtain

**Narrator:** Announcements

## Staging ideas for “Twitterpated.” (Just suggestions or thoughts.)

### twitterpated (adj.)

1942, apparently first attested in the Walt Disney movie "Bambi".

Thumper: Why are they acting that way?

Friend Owl: Why, don't you know? They're twitterpated.

Flower, Bambi, Thumper: Twitterpated?

Friend Owl: Yes. Nearly everybody gets twitterpated in the springtime. For example: You're walking along, minding your own business. You're looking neither to the left, nor to the right, when all of a sudden you run smack into a pretty face. Woo-woo! You begin to get weak in the knees. Your head's in a whirl. And then you feel light as a feather, and before you know it, you're walking on air. And then you know what? You're knocked for a loop, and you completely lose your head!

Thumper: Gosh, that's awful.

#### 1. Brand New Day

Chorus is on stage when curtains open. No risers.

Back drop screen could show scene of sunrise, singers, lovers.

#### 2. Banana Boat Song

Montage of banana boat photos.

Carmen Miranda costumed person dancing to song. (This might even be funnier if a man did it, unless we could find a lady who can actually dance.)

#### 3. Under the Boardwalk

Montage of boardwalk photos. Possible beach chairs and beach umbrellas?

#### 4. Silhouettes

We need a free standing stage prop made to look like a window with a shade (a white or light colored sheet). Slightly oversize frame would be better, with maybe a lamp silhouette as well. Back lighting. Two actors to portray him and her. I don't think we need the jealous guy in our song out front, as the chorus is singing in first person.

#### 5. Hello Mary Lou

Add our usual choreography or a bit more?

#### 6. Armed Forces Medley

Have VFW or similar group in uniform as flag bearers on stage.

Have audience veterans stand or raise hands when their service branch song is sung. Recognize the veterans in the B.C.B.C. by having them sing in front of chorus.

7. Sweet and Lovely

Proposal scene? Perhaps behind silhouette window. Man in barbershop outfit. (Pork pie hat) on one knee. Woman in long tresses, perhaps with a bow, sitting or standing.

8. Barbershop Medley: My Wild Irish Rose, Down Our Way, Shine on Me

Continue pantomime and/or silhouette routine from "Sweet and Lovely".

9. When I'm Sixty-Four

Montage of senior citizens on back screen? Several of couples. ???

Actors doing skit mimicking song, man with bowler hat and cane.....woman with shawl and hat with flower. Silhouettes would be great if we had a larger back lit cloth throughout the production.....something we could roll out for several of our songs. Something light.....10x10 PVC pipe?

10. Don't Be a Baby, Baby

11. In the Still of the Nite (I'll Remember).

Choreographed rendition

12. Moonlight Bay

Back drop screen has large moon. Our "Sweet and Lovely" actors traverse stage with cardboard canoe prop with blue skirt to hide legs. Man could paddle if woman can hold up canoe, or have wheel rack on one end.

13. Battle Hymn of the Republic

Chorus moves to the very front of the stage and delivers this with gusto.

Maybe Mary Ann stands below stage at audience level.

Note: None of the staging ideas have been adopted and depend on making props and getting actors to participate. Other ideas are encouraged. John Taylor

