



Kokomo Men of Note

Program – Meeting Night (2/15/10)

1st Presbyterian Church - 2000 W. Jefferson Street

Please visit our website: <http://www.kokomo-men-of-note.org>

The mission of the Kokomo Chapter is to promote, encourage, preserve and sing the barbershop style of music; and lead the cause of supporting and encouraging vocal music in our schools and community.

February 8th Attendance: 23 singers: 3 tenors, 11 leads, 3 baritones, 6 basses; Welcome to our guests: Larry Ives, baritone; Jeremy Kirkmeyer - bass; Mark Williams – bass

Interesting signs: *At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg - we want tows". On an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts"*

Program

- 7:00 Warm-up & Polecat Songs
- 7:15 Happy Together and Happy Trails (memory?)
- 7:30 Back In the Saddle Again, Ragtime Cowboy Joe, There's A Goldmine In the Sky
- 7:55 Ninety second member info time
- 8:00 Home On the Range, Don't Fence Me In
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 Happy Together on risers
- 9:00 Happy Trails on risers
- 9:15 Quartetting on Polecat or Valentines songs
- 9:30 KTWWS

**“Common-looking people are the best in the world:
that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them!” Abraham Lincoln**



Singing Valentine Summary

The Final total was 57 Singing Valentines; 13 more than last year. Sunday went very smoothly. Thanks to everyone for their efforts *Al*

It was another great time doing Singing Valentines again this year. Our Friday quartet (Tom R., Mike L., Bob C., and myself) sang three or four Valentines in the morning on Friday. The highlight of that series was at Killingbeck's Insurance and Tax agency. It was very crowded and busy, but the lady to whom we sang looked especially happy to be receiving such a special gift; she smiled broadly all the time we sang. After about the fourth stop, Bob had to go back to work, and Chuck C. joined us for the afternoon session starting at Greentree. We then traveled to Tipton to sing for a nice lady at a doctor's office. We then surprised my wife (Vicki) at my house on the way back to Kokomo. We finished up by singing to Mary R. (Tom's wife) at his house.

On Saturday, I was with Ray B., Tom G. and Colin C. Strange as it seems, I don't think this particular foursome had ever sung together as a quartet; and we didn't sound too bad either. We went to Russiaville, West Middleton, Greentown (twice), Indian Heights and a few others around Kokomo before we ended up at Tom G.'s house to sing for his wife (Judy). We then tried to sing for his daughter who lives next door to Tom and Judy, but we couldn't get any response when we knocked on the door. So we went back to Tom's house where he called his daughter and found out that she had been in the tub and couldn't answer the door. So we went back and finally got to sing to her and her beautiful baby girl.

Sunday the Sound Celebration will start after church and sing more Valentines until evening. It's an exhausting few days, but well worth the effort, not only financially but emotionally as well. It's very fulfilling for us to be the means by which people show how much they care for their special loved ones.
Charlie

***Thanks to Al, his committee, volunteers, quartets, customers, advertisers,
and all who made the 2010 Singing Valentines successful!***



Bring a guest to our guest night next Monday!

Business Calendar

February 22nd – Monday – Guest Night!

March 1st – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM

March 8th – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM

April 5th – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM

April 12th – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM

April 9th-11th – Cardinal District Spring Convention in Fort Wayne

May 24th – Monday – Guest Night

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

May 15th – Saturday – MoN Annual Show “How the West Was Sung”

Ways You Can Take Part in Your Chapter:

- Don't wait to be asked to do a job, volunteer. How will anyone know that you're interested if you don't express your desire to get involved?
- Sing everyday! Use proper technique of breathing and vocalizing regularly to the point that good singing is natural for you.
- Return from breaks on time.
- Bring a tape recorder to rehearsal - and use it.
- Teach a tag.

Food for thought (from *directors@yahoo.com*)

If we have learned to "perform" any song in the chorus repertoire, whether it's "Heart Of My Heart" or "In The Still Of The Night," should our "performance" methods and styles change? No, not at all. We want to sing and "perform" every song the best we can, or, I certainly hope we all would think like that. Interpretation and style may alter and change but quality is a constant given. Even an untrained ear will either like or dislike what it hears. It's just that simple. *Randy C. Dills, Carolina Chordsmen, Dixie District*

Recipe for Electric Performances

Intensity, Concentration, and Relaxation work together to make your performance sparkle.

Intensity/energy - Focus

- A drop in energy/intensity during a performance alters the rhythms between the audience and the performers. When you withdraw from the audience the audience's interest will, reciprocally, be withdrawn from you.
- Expectation is the leading edge of an actor's (performers) presentation; the performer must not only try to achieve a goal he or she must expect to achieve it.
- A "deer-in-the-headlights" approach is NOT concentration.
- Expectation creates the energy of performance - and pulls energy out of the performer that he or she could not otherwise "push" simply by trying to be "energetic". Audience empathy, in fact, comes almost entirely from the audience's identification with the performer's expectations. *(Article to be continued)*

Singing Tip Your singing is at its best when you are using your voice the way it was intended—with good vocal technique based upon solid principles that allow the natural sound of your voice to emerge. And a more natural vocal style will inherently take less effort! Trying to imitate some other singer's sound (we call it “manufactured sound”) is the fastest way to vocal problems, due to the tension and unnatural positions the vocal mechanism must assume. Personal singing styles and inflections are a reflection of the individual, so imitation sounds exactly like what it is and is usually not as good as an original. The audience becomes more distracted by the effort and notices the singer more than the singing.

If you must imitate, mimic the techniques and vocal exercises the champs use to get that great sound, but do not imitate the sound itself!

Sound your best: Use and develop your natural voice, one that relies upon a foundation of solid individual vocal technique and ensemble technique.

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) 26th U.S. President