

"Har-Mo-Notes"

**Kokomo, IN, Men of Note Weekly Electronic Bulletin
Meeting Night Program for March 22, 2010**



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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. (Adopted 5/08/06)

Attendance for March 15th, 2010: 25 singers: 4 tenors, 10 leads, plus J.R. Rodgers - guest of Tom Gillam, 3 baritones, 7 basses



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Rita Bagby – March 22nd

Interesting signs: At a Propane Bottle Filling Station: "Thank Heaven for Little Grills":
At a Chicago Radiator Shop: "The Best Place To Take A Leak"

Program

- 7:00 Warm-up, Polecat Songs, "A Wink and a Smile"
- 7:20 Sectionals on "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and "There's a Gold Mine in the Sky"
- 8:00 Full chorus rehearsal on above songs
- 8:28 Ninety second member info time
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 "Back in the Saddle" and "Happy Trails" on risers from memory.
- 9:00 "Oklahoma"; "Home On the Range"; "Don't Fence Me In"; "Ragtime Cowboy Joe"
- 9:15 Quartetting on Polecat songs
- 9:30 KTWWS

Show notes! "How the West Was Sung!"



A reminder to guys to be assembling their costumes for the show, including horse. and . . . next weeks songs to be off music are "Oklahoma" and "Home on the Range." Thanks, Charlie

Timeline for learning show songs

<u>Song</u>	<u>Off music by</u>
"Back in the Saddle Again"	March 22, 2010
"Happy Trails"	March 22
"Home on the Range"	March 29
"Oklahoma"	March 29
"Don't Fence Me In"	April 5
"Ragtime Cowboy Joe"	April 12
"There's A Gold Mine in the Sky"	April 12
"Deep in the Heart of Texas"	April 19
"Jingle, Jangle, Jingle" (Octet)	April 19



Singing Tip: Vowels & Diphthongs (V-ah-oo-eh-Is) (David Mills, Singing Judge)

- From the most forward (placement of the tongue):
'EE' (cheese) --> 'IH' (chick) --> 'EH' (check) --> 'AE' (chase) --> 'AA' (chap)
- Next (after 'AA'), I like to use the sequence that closes the mouth just slightly from the most open:
'AH' (chop) --> 'AW' (chalk) --> 'OH' (chose) --> 'OU' (should) --> 'OO' (choose)
- Finally, conclude with the targets that are "in the middle": 'UR' (church) and 'UH' (chuck)

- Here's the review:
'EE' - 'IH' - 'EH' - 'AE' - 'AA' - 'AH' - 'AW' - 'OH' - 'OU' - 'OO' - 'UR' - 'UH'
- All other word sounds are actually combinations of these, expressed as diphthongs and triphthongs. For example, the word "chime" starts with the 'AH' target sound and finishes with the 'EE' sound. The word "our" uses the same 'AH' target sound, then goes to 'OO' followed immediately by 'UR'.

“A person who does things that count doesn’t stop to count them”

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**Bring a guest next Monday!**

**Business Calendar**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM

**April 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>** – Cardinal District Spring Convention in Fort Wayne

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM

**May 24<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – Guest Night

**PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday – MoN Annual Show “How the West Was Sung”

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Six things every director wishes you already knew about rehearsing

As a chorus member, what you can do to make those rehearsals be more fun for everyone.

By Bill Rashleigh, Music specialist, chorus director development

Directors are constantly striving to improve the response of the chorus. They are refining conducting techniques and beat patterns, rehearsal techniques, and music selection, maintaining chorus member interest, improving the quality of performances, and riser etiquette and discipline. It behooves us as chorus members to be prepared for rehearsals, to respond to them with the vitality they deserve. With that in mind, here is an interesting article by Bill Rashleigh which we can use as a platform to improving our response to the Director.

1. For the chorus to improve, each man must leave his own behavioral comfort zone. If each singer would improve one aspect, skill, or attitude each and every time he sings, the overall music will get better very quickly. Take ownership of something. Maybe it is a breathing issue, maybe a balance challenge; maybe it is adding more airflow over the break in your individual voice. Simple things like these accomplish immediate improvement.
 2. You should be emotionally involved in the music. Barbershop is a very emotional, heartfelt, simplistically beautiful style of music. The music doesn’t need to be complex to produce complex emotions in the singers or the audience. However, anything less than full effort will result in a less satisfying musical experience for you and your audiences. When you commit to becoming a member of your chapter’s chorus, you’re committing to being a doer rather than a casual spectator. With that responsibility to put your whole self into the music comes the joy of joining others to bring music to life. What greater purpose in the arts might there be?
 3. Rehearsals will be more productive if you listen—and extinguish comments—while on the risers. When your director cuts off the chorus in the middle of a phrase, do you sometimes choose this moment to tell your neighbor that he sang the wrong note or “oo” vowel? You may think you’re helping, but this disrupts the flow of the rehearsal. Remember this: Unlike you, the director hears exactly what the audience would hear (the macro effect). If he didn’t hear what you just heard (the micro effect), the audience probably wouldn’t hear it, either. On the other hand, the issues he identifies (both positive and negative) will be critical. The director can fix many more problems when chorus members withhold their comments and trust him to prioritize which issues need to be addressed at the moment. If the director consistently overlooks something that is bothering you, it is best to discuss it with your section leader or your director after you get off the risers.
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KIDS ARE QUICK!

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Hunter, name one important thing that we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

HUNTER: Me!