



Kokomo Men of Note

Program – Meeting Night (3/23/09)

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.

March 16th Attendance: 25 singers! 4 Tenors, 9 Leads, 3 Baritones, 9 Basses including Mark Williams & Skip Holston and 14 honored guests!

Confucius say: "Man who stands on toilet is high on pot". Ray

~~~~~ **Monday evening** ~~~~~

Monday night will be a concentrated effort on our contest songs. However, we still want all of you to be there even if you are not going to the contest.

If you are not going to contest, you will still be able to help us by making helpful comments about our performance. We will very likely be singing these songs down the road at a sing out and it will be important for you to know all the words, notes, gestures, etc. when we sing them after the contest is long gone. We will also be going over a few of the show songs interspersed with the contest songs just to give ourselves a break. These will be important songs to you, too. So, please try to be there, whether you are going to contest or not and PLEASE try to be on time.

~~~~~ **Agenda** ~~~~~

- 7:00 Warm up
- 7:15 On stage - drill on Don't Blame Me and Wink and a Smile
- 7:45 Show music - Daddy Sang Bass and Dem Bones Gonna Rise Again
- 8:00 Contest songs on risers
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 Contest songs on risers - full contest mode
- 9:15 Review same two show songs
- 9:25 Back on risers for final go around of contest songs
- ?:?? KTWWS

Suggested strategies for vocal unity: 1) Softer overall presentation. 2) Listen with BOTH ears 3) Work on matching vowels and planning the diphthong turns. 4) Use your "stage presence" to distract us visually. *TH*

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### **Be Prepared**

Think of the following suggestions as a pre-flight check list.

- Arrive early and settle in . . . Eat light for energy and better control . . . Stay well hydrated!
- Be sure you are in your window on the risers with your toes at the front of the risers.
- As directed, shake your hands briefly at your side to release any tension.
- Rehearse the start of the songs in your mind. Imagine giving the best performance of your life!
- Look at a spot, directly in front of you, on the curtain that will correspond with someone in about the 10th to 15th row (your person) with the Director in sight at all times!
- Do not follow the opening of the curtain with your eyes . . . keep your eyes on your person.
- Listen to the pitch, internalize what you hear . . . then take pitch carefully and deliberately.
- Keep humming the pitch as directed by the director & cut off together w/ Director signal.
- You will do only what you practiced. So practice exactly what you want to play out on that day (no scratching, hands in pockets, arms crossed, talking on the risers, etc.) Perform well!!!!



#### **Mark Your Calendar**

**March 27 -28 - 29**– Cardinal Dist.Spring Convention – Kokomo to participate in chorus contest (Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>)

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

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Sunday – Sharpville United Methodist Church Mother-Daughter Reception 3:00PM(approx)

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – Music Team meeting @ 6:00PM

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM  
May 16<sup>th</sup> – Kokomo Men of Note Annual Show – 2:00pm Matinee; 6:30PM meal/7:30PM Show  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – KMoN w/ the KPB – “Nothing Like a Dame” for Broadway/Hollywood night  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – 6 - 9PM (core times) Harmony International regional Convention @ old Ramada, Kokomo  
June 20<sup>th</sup> – 11 AM – 3:00 PM (core times) Harmony International regional Convention  
July 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – Harmony Explosion Camp (Do you know interested youth we can sponsor and send?)  
July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – Cardinal Chord College w/ concentration on Chorus and Quartet coaching & training.  
July 29<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – KMoN in concert with the KPB – medley about the theme "See The U.S.A."  
August 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – KMoN Concert in the Park – Time TBA

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***FYI:***

Monday is the last opportunity to get Harmony Foundation Raffle Tickets \$1.00@/6 - \$5.00 See Larry F. Check list for Saturday:

- ✓ Pick up registration Friday evening or make arrangements to have registration picked up Saturday
- ✓ Bring full Tuxedo w/ red tie and cummerbund, black patent shoes & socks
- ✓ Bring BHS Membership card
- ✓ Find homeroom @ Columbus North and be ready for walk through by 8:00AM our warm-up will be prior to 10:00AM since we are 2<sup>nd</sup> chorus performing.
- ✓ Support *Sycamore Road & Interchange* @ Quartet finals Saturday evening!



***Contest Pictures:***

This is to inform you about Miller Photography taking the chorus picture at the contest. Please note that the picture will be taken after we compete, then we will be free to go back into the auditorium during a break between choruses, to see and hear the remaining choruses compete. That should really be a top priority for you. For those who have never been to a competition before, it will really be an educational as well as enjoyable experience. Please make plans to stay through the chorus contest, get a bite to eat and come back for the finals of the quartet contest.

We will have a sign up sheet for pictures on Monday night. Be prepared to let us know if you want a picture and have money there also, so we can send in the order through the chapter and get reduced rates.

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**Presentation**



I think it's important to remember that the constant animation that is being mentioned here is constant facial animation, not body animation (no waving wheat). I believe you are right in saying that this is a tool to get us past being lifeless, but tools like this are what most of our amateur singers need to break themselves out of a visual rut.

I've done quite a bit of coaching of high C to low B level groups lately, and one of the common themes that I have found is that the music they choose tends to not have a lot of emotional dynamics. That is, it's a happy song, or it's a sad song, and the singer gets caught in the trap of pasting a happy or sad face on for the whole performance. Using constant facial animation requires that the performer look at what is really being said in each phrase, connecting a more complex emotion to each phrase (instead of happy or sad), and finding a way to change the face in a subtle yet noticeable way to express those changes in mood. The term constant animation is simply a reminder that the face has to change with each of these subtleties in mood and expression. Again, this is just a tool, but a very useful one.

Just like going from no expression to one expression while singing is a big step, this is yet another step along the way. The step after this one is allowing the face to automatically reflect your internal emotions, which hopefully match the lyric and mood being expressed in the music. Constant facial animation can get a singer a long way down the road towards visual artistry; once the face has been taught how to express a wide variety of moods while singing, it is a small step to becoming artistically expressive in a natural and organic kind of way. *Chris Arnold, Greater Toronto Chapter, Waterloo, Ontario*

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Story telling has to be believable, and that means the storytellers [that's us] have to be believable. In order to do that the story has to mean something to the storyteller - in other words "own it" or at the very least "buy into it" as if the story is personal and told from the heart. That said, appropriate and natural gestures and facial EXPRESSION will almost be unavoidable, or at least look like they are.

*S. Gordon, Asst. Director, Bass S/L Federal Way Harmony Kings*