



Kokomo Men of Note

Program – Meeting Night (8/10/09)

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.

Wednesday, August 5th Attendance (Concert in the Park): 23 chorus members/performers broken down as follows: 4 tenors, 9 leads, 3 baritones and 7 basses. We had one member in the audience (Larry Farris).

We also had the five Northwestern girls, one sound man (Dick Stroud), and one MC (Steve Cole).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Sharon Jones & Merrell Kenworthy–August 11th; Jacob Farkas–August 14th

Ada Johnson–August 16th HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Phil & Carolyn Rankin – August 12th

Our prayers and condolences to Phil Rankin and family on the passing of his mother.

Program

7:00 Warm-up and Polecat tunes

7:15 Summer concert recap

7:30 Start on Western show songs

8:30 Break and Business

8:45 Repertoire review or new music

9:15 Quartetting on Polecat tunes or Show Tunes

9:30 KTWWS

Congratulations to the Men of Note for a great summer Concert in the Park! One of our best, I would say. Everyone did a super job! Special thanks to Myron for suggesting Steve Cole to be our MC; he was outstanding. And, Laura Alexander and the ladies from Northwestern HS did a tremendous job. The weather was beautiful and it was just a wonderful evening. Thanks, also, to Bob Whitacre and Dick Stroud for providing and manning the sound system and to Colin for hauling the risers and the extra props. *Charlie*



Prez sez:

Hi Men,

I couldn't wait until Monday to tell you I that the show last night was really great!!!! Everything fell together perfectly and the presentation to the audience was excellent. We had a nice crowd, which says a lot for the Men of Note and their reputation for putting on a show worthy of coming to the park to watch and listen. The applause was strong and motivated for every song, and there were no mistakes or issues that interrupted any song, or segue. The Ladies were a great addition to the show and their presence demonstrated our scholarship goals better than any words could have every done.

So Congratulations to everyone!!!! You have helped support and elevate the Kokomo Men of Note's reputation as an excellent chorus, and a great addition to the city of Kokomo. *Colin*



WEEKLY GOALS!

- ✓ Am I watching the Director for downbeats, cutoffs, tempo and interpretation!
- ✓ "Sing with emotion" – quote from Al Temby
- ✓ Breathe together as a section and/or chorus!
- ✓ Make strong, secure first note entrances!
- ✓ End phrases together w/ a lift . . . then . . . tank up with air for the next phrase!
- ✓ Sing fluid, energized phrases! Sing through the vowels, don't clip end of phrases!
- ✓ Enjoy what you are singing and convey your enthusiasm to the audience even in rehearsal!
- ✓ Listen to each other in your section – match vocal quality & pitch – sing as one!

A barbershop definition:

bisectional (adj).able to sing more than one voice part ... hopefully, not simultaneously



Bring a guest to the next meeting night!

- August 10th** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM
- August 31st** – Monday – Music Team meeting @ 6:00PM
- September 7th** – Monday – LABOR DAY (No meeting tonight)
- September 14th** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM
- Sept.28th** – 1st reading of Officers Nominations for 2010
- Oct.5th** – 2nd reading of Officers Nominations for 2010
- Oct.12th** – Chapter Voting for 2010 Officers/ Annual Chapter Meeting



Five Quartet Singing Talents

Some truths are unchanging. This 1963 piece by the legendary Lou Perry outlines the fundamental skills every quartet singer ought to possess.

We are all amateurs, which means we are doing something we love. We love to sing barbershop harmony. As Bob Johnson has stated on numerous occasions, most of us are not singers, but because we love to sing, we constantly strive to sing better so that eventually we may be able to sing for the pleasure of other people. Very often efforts toward this end result in men finally becoming singers. There is no better basis for the success of your quartet than this "best of all reasons for singing."

There are other elements, however, which have an important part in determining how far your quartet can go. They are commonly referred to as talents, some of which we all have in varying degrees. They are discussed below in the order of their importance.

1. A musical ear

This talent involves the ability to mentally hear pitches, intervals and related musical sounds accurately. It does not imply any knowledge of musical theory or the ability to read music (visual identification). Like all talents, this one improves with practice so that reaction to pitch patterns is quickened. Unfortunately, a sensitive musical ear cannot be created. If you do not have one, you had better take up golf or some like pastime. You do not belong in a singing society - unless of course you have remarkable administrative talents which might be used to implement the efforts of the singers. *(to be continued)*



The Songs we sing . . . "School Days"

Nostalgia has been a major marketing success lately. The game of Trivial Pursuit reeks of it. There are reunions of old television and rock groups galore. However, there is nothing new to the use of nostalgia to market a product. Over 90 years ago, folks were already looking back.

Let's take a trip on memory's ship, back to those bygone days. While that's an ideal lead-in to this month's article on old songs, those with sharp eyes and memories will recognize it as part of the verse of a popular song written in 1907. Before you go any farther, think about it just a minute. See if your own recollections can identify the work.

This song finds a couple lamenting nothing to do. Sweethearts since their childhood days, Joe suggests to Nellie that they embark upon a nostalgic return to those innocent days of their youth. In their minds' eyes, they peer into a building where the two wrote love notes, not on paper, but on slate. Yes, this is that beloved old chestnut, School Days.

Will D. Cobb penned the lines we sing, while Gus Edwards provided its unforgettable melody. As featured in the Society's Heritage of Harmony Songbook, the story of the song indicates that the two collaborated on many songs of the era. This number was the title song for the stage work of the same name. Gus Edwards not only wrote music; he also helped discover such stars as Eddie Cantor, George Jessel, Sally Rand, Walter Winchell, Ray Bolger, Eleanor Powell and Groucho Marx. If none of these names are familiar to you, you are long overdue for a trip back to the "Good Old Days."

-- from Dundalk, MD Charivari, Tom Wheatley, editor