



Kokomo Men of Note

Program – Meeting Night (10/26/09)

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.

October 19th Attendance: 19 singers: 1 tenor, 9 leads, 4 baritones, and 5 basses

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Cameron Lambert – October 28th Happy Halloween!

Thought provoking questions: Why is "abbreviation" such a long word? Is it true that cannibals do not eat clowns because they taste funny? Why do they call it a TV set, when you only get one?

Program

- 7:00 Warm-up and Polecat tunes
- 7:15 Christmas music
- 8:00 Sectional practice - Go Tell It and Gloria
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 Western Music
- 9:15 Quartetting on Polecat tunes or Show Tunes
- 9:30 KTWWS

Polecat Learning Series is about complete –Have you earned your pin? 

Coaching Tips from Jeremy Conover (Award winning barbershop bass, Chorus Dir., and coach!)

Coaching with Jeremy sound production, breathing, and following the director

1. Empty the diaphragm during tune up, or before the song begins. Then on the director's preparation move, take a deep breath in silently.
2. Use all of our air on each phrase. Even on short phrases, allow the sound to flow openly and freely.
3. Use vowel words to learn how to keep the sound of the song on target. (Ex: "oh")
4. Warm up the voice at rehearsals, and techniques that can be used at home.
5. Keep the song smooth from word to word; phrase to phrase

More coaching tips from Jeremy next week!



Bring a guest to the next meeting night! (See page 2)

- November 2nd** – Monday – Music Team meeting @ 6:00PM
- November 7th** – Saturday – Howard Co. Sports Hall of Fame Banquet (Quartet)
- November 9th** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM
- November 12th** – Thursday – @ 6:30 PM Rehearsal for "We Care" at Crossroads Church
- November 20th** – Friday – Sing for "We Care" 7:00 PM Be there at 6:00 PM – Crossroads Church
- November 21st** – Saturday – Sing @ Evening of Praise & Thanksgiving @ Tipton HS Auditorium
- November 28th** – Saturday – Sing at Seiberling Mansion for Christmas
- December 3rd** – Thursday – Sing at 1st Pres. for Salvation Army Senior Citizens Luncheon - Noon
- December 7th** – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM
- December 8th** – Tuesday – Sing at Friendship Haven – Be there at 6:00 – sing approx 6:30 PM
- December 14th** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM
- January 9th** – Saturday – COTS (Leadership Training) @ Columbus Holiday Inn
- April 9th -11th** – Cardinal District Spring Convention in Fort Wayne

What O.C. Cash forgot to tell us

by Bill Gibbons

- * Advice to newly formed quartets; never challenge a heckler to come up and sing it better, He or she will.
- * More advice to newly formed quartets; a pitchpipe makes an excellent medium-range weapon.
- * Chorus progress is made on alternate meeting nights.
- * The bass section: never needlessly disturb a thing at rest

Important Things to Remember When Singing Your Best - Jim Debusman -

Here are some important things we would like you to discover concerning singing your best. Singing correctly and your very best are the most important things you can do to become the best possible performer. The information below should help you better understand the important fundamentals needed to improve your own voice.

The importance of Posture and Alignment

1. Your neck and head - Be able to move your head side to side & back and forth while singing to make certain that you are not holding your head rigidly
2. Your lower back - Swayback posture throws off the proper use of the abdominals. Tuck the hips under and/or bend the knees slightly.
3. Your knees and thighs - Have a distinct feeling of the knees and the tops of the thighs rotating outward to establish a base for the support concepts. Do not lock your knees at any time.
4. Your abdominals or the stomach area - These are needed for support (lift) and coordination. Weak abdominals lead to wrong force as opposed to right force. Keeping the diaphragm down, i.e. pushing out against the abdominal wall, causes a condition within the larynx in which the vocal folds are brought together under too much tension. Careful increase of pressure brought about by controlled exhalation using the abdominal "lift" will allow the vocal folds to vibrate freely.
5. Your upper back - Inability to pull back straight affects rib position. Keeping your body in good alignment is very important if you want to sing without any tension. (Alexander Technique)
6. Your jaw - A tight jaw is a symptom of a tight throat. The trick is to drop the jaw and keep the throat open at the same time as if just before the beginning of a yawn or the sensation one feels when trying to swallow a piece of "hot" potato.
7. Your back of the neck - Lengthen this area, thus allowing the head to tilt forward slightly and develop a level, parallel to the floor. Stand tall as if you were a puppet with a piece of string coming out of the top of your head. This can not apply to singers who have over jets (over bits).
8. Your shoulders - Avoid raising the shoulders on inhalation or phonation. Remember the effect on the voice box from unwanted reflexes. Roll the tips of the shoulders up and back to create a high chest and "open" rib cage.



Membership Corner!

There are statements that have been frequently repeated within our society that may affect our efforts toward successful growth. Are they factual or mythical?

There are so many diversions in today's world that men no longer have the time, nor are they interested in our barbershop harmony society. Fact or myth? MYTH!

Almost everyone will find the time to do the things they truly want to do. They aren't interested in us because so many still don't even know we exist. Membership in our society hit its zenith around 1990. That was only about 19 years ago and those weren't exactly the dark ages. The activities available today were available then. The biggest changes since 1990 has been the influx of miniaturization.

Young men don't like to sing the old songs. They are only interested in more up to date tunes. Fact or myth? MYTH! Young men today, as has always been the case with almost all men, are more interested in the sound than the song. And many of our old songs are new to them. The younger gals today are fascinated by the romantic lyrics of many old songs, and where the gals are likely to flock, the guys are soon to follow.

100 Ways You Can Take Part in Your Chapter

Collected from the Harmonet by Kim Benner, Singing Buckeyes, Columbus OH

9. Take your quartet to retirement homes, and share your hobby. Family members are often there visiting and recruiting new members is part of your performance.
10. Volunteer to do a little more than you really want to in fundraising or committee work.
11. Take your camera to chorus functions, and turn in the pictures to your history book/scrapbook person.
12. Smile. Act like you're enjoying your hobby, and show it (let the director know you're "really" there).
13. Talk to two or three people (before, during break or after rehearsal) that you normally don't talk to.
14. When you are at social gatherings, quartet performances, etc., always talk about your chapter; you never know where your next guest might be.
15. Offer to clean the chapter's storage facility or update the inventory.

