



## **Kokomo Men of Note**

### **Program – Meeting Night (12/7/09)**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

**November 30<sup>th</sup> Attendance:** 18 singers: 2 tenors, 7 leads, 4 baritones, and 5 basses;  
20 members present at Seiberling Mansion sing out;  
15 members present at the Salvation Army Senior Citizen's luncheon sing out.



### **Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 – Pearl Harbor**

**Thought provoking questions:** Why do we say something is "out of whack"? What is a "whack" anyway? If man evolved from apes, why do we still have apes?: What hair color do they put on a driver's license of bald men?

#### **Program**

- 7:00 Warm-up and Polecat/Valentine tunes - "You Are My Sunshine", "Love Me Tender"& "I Love You Truly"
- 7:15 Go Tell It on the Mountain
- 7:45 Christmas package on risers
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 Western Music
- 9:15 Quartetting on Polecat, Valentine or Show Tunes
- 9:30 KTWWS

**Target:** *I would like to get "Go Tell It on the Mountain" to where we can perform it at least once this season, although I realize it's a difficult arrangement. Charlie*

### **Kokomo Men of Note Chapter News**

**Sing-Out at "Friendship Haven"** – Please make sure you all come to the Sing-Out at "Friendship Haven" Tuesday Dec. 8th to see the return of our KMON sign. It's a Christmas miracle. *Bill Doyel*

**Congrats!** Another fine performance from the Men of Note Thursday for the Salvation Army. We had to alter our program somewhat to accommodate their situation, which we did with grace and ease. Thus, we must always be sensitive to what our patrons and coordinators want and be ready to give them what they need and expect. Being flexible is part of being good performers. Great job, guys. *Charlie*

### **Craft: Singing in Tune**

*by Fred King, international coach*

*The article below is the beginning of a series of sections dealing with singing in tune. Although the presentation was written from the standpoint of coaching, we should be able to apply it to ourselves, thus, in effect, becoming our own coaches.*

Perhaps one of the biggest problems faced by coaches is the quartet or chorus which continually or even occasionally sings out of tune. It is interesting to note that Brahms gave up directing a choral group of ladies in Hamburg, Germany, because they could not stay on pitch. This article will not attempt to deal with sharp singing. Even though sharp singing is an occasional problem, the overwhelming preponderance of tuning problems has to do with flattening.

Actually, there are two kinds of flattening problems. The first is where the voice parts stay in tune with each other, but the entire quartet or chorus flats uniformly from the starting pitch. The second is where the voice parts sing out of tune with one another as well as flattening the given pitch. What are some of the reasons singers tend to sing flat, and what can the coach do about them?

First of all, many singers fail to start on pitch. This is due to lack of attention. Each singer must learn to hear the correct pitch before he attempts to sing it. It is very important for the singers to learn to listen to each other. The greatest degree of pitch accuracy occurs when a singer develops a concept of the way his voice sounds to others, because it is then possible to tell when he is singing out of tune.

Once the quartet starts on pitch, insist that each member energize himself. Listless body attitudes will cause flattening. Correct posture is essential, but not enough. There is a vast difference between erect and alert. The singers must have a good mental attitude and look happy in order to sing in tune. If the quartet consistently flats, try raising the pitch one-half step or even a whole step. The added energy required to produce their voices may keep them on pitch.



**Bring a guest to the next meeting night!**

- December 7<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM - **Select the Kokomo Chapter BOTY**
- December 8<sup>th</sup>** – Tuesday – Sing at Friendship Haven – Be there at 6:00 – sing approx 6:30 PM (Tux w/red)
- December 11<sup>th</sup>** – Friday – Sing at Autumnwood Village across from Tipton HS @ 7:15 PM Entrance is on the Fairgrounds Road - dress TBA
- December 14<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM
- December 15<sup>th</sup>** – Tuesday – St. Joseph Hospital Christmas Party (Warm up @ 12:30PM in the Board Room located in the Berkley Wing of the hospital on the main floor. Sing @ 1:00PM in the Conference Center in the basement of the hospital)
- December 19<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday – VFW Children's Christmas party @ the VFW on N. Washington St., Kokomo. Sing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. - dress TBA
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Sing @ Century Villa Greentown (WU3:00PM; show 3:30)
- January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Saturday – Officer Installation Banquet @ St. Joseph Center in Tipton, Nice dress up clothes Jackets & Ties or warm Sweaters suggested 6:00PM
- January 4<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – Music Committee meeting @ 6:00 PM
- January 9<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday – COTS (Leadership Training) @ Columbus Holiday Inn
- January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00 PM
- February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Monday – Golden Corral Restaurant - Sing for the Golden K Kiwanis Club at 12:30 p.m. Dress - chorus casuals
- March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Sunday – MoN performance @ the Rhum Academy sponsored by the Kokomo Symphony – 7:00PM
- April 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>** – Cardinal District Spring Convention in Fort Wayne

**BARBERSHOP HISTORY-GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ - #1**

*author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ*

- 1- Where does the term barbershop harmony come from?
- 2- What were barbershop's two major showcases from the 1880's through the 1930's?
- 3- What caused barbershop's demise as a major form of popular music?
- 4- Why was barbershop harmony important to George Burns, Bing Crosby and Al Jolson?
- 5- What was the influence of Black Americans in barbershop's formative days?

Answers to this month's history quiz:

- 1- Barbershops, first in England, then here, were places of extemporaneous, amateur music making since Elizabethan times. A song written in 1910 and entitled [Mister Jefferson Lord] "Play That Barbershop Chord" iced the cake.
- 2- Minstrel shows in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, thereafter, vaudeville.
- 3- Radio, more so than any other factor. For the first time in human history, radio brought affordable and widely available entertainment into almost every home. This led to the rapid demise of vaudeville shows, barbershop's most important venue during the first third of the twentieth century.
- 4- They began their show biz careers as professional barbershop quartet singers.
- 5- The influence was immense, but this is a give-a-way to all of you scholars who read the lengthy article on the history of barbershop harmony in the current issue (August 2001) of the Harmonizer.

**Musings from Lewis Center**

Rose Anne and I had the opportunity to attend a concert last night of the Ohio Heartland Chapter of Sweet Adelines International (18 voices) and the Olentangy Men's Chorus (17 voices). It was a delightful hour and twenty minute performance featuring an SAI Quartet, the *Dominotes*, and a rendition of the old Kingston Trio classic *Coventry Carol*. The two choruses traded songs during the two sets and ended with a collaboration of a *Night of Silence* w/ audience participation on the last chorus of Silent Night. The evening was great . . . however leaving me very homesick for my Kokomo Chorus! Time to consider the chapter's BOTY and plan the menu for the Installation Banquet! Have a wonderful Chapter meeting and a song-filled week!