



FORTUNETELLER



Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District
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"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"

2009 - No.9 - December

Go For The Gold Show



For the first time in many years your editor was in the audience for the Christmas Shows rather than being on stage - I got back from the land of sun too late for the final rehearsals, and I knew they would change the choreo on me. What an experience! It was an evening to remember. The GoF, in their traditional red & whites, directed by **Charlie Metzger**, singing traditional (and not so traditional) carols, with **Dave Whittier** and **Byron Walton** (what a team) playing off each other like Mutt & Jeff introducing songs against a magnificent backdrop built by **Ray Fallan & Gar Discher**. Then there were the dulcet tones and chords of **Antique Gold** followed by **Realtime** with a cappella as we seldom get the opportunity to hear and enjoy.



After intermission Emcee **Ray Fallan** introduced **Lions Gate Chorus** who wowed us with over 100 on stage showing how they won their International second place in October. With sound and choreo like that it is no wonder that they were voted Most Entertaining Chorus



and that **Sandy Marron** is recognized as a top level (god like?) Director. The GoF came back in their new black & turquoise uniforms with their contest set, **Shoji Whittier** soloing in *"You Raise Me Up"*, followed by *"If I were A Rich Man"* and a chorus favourite *"Freddie Feel Good And His Funky Little Four-Piece Band"*. The Finale, with about 150 people on stage wishing everybody a Merry Christmas, brought the audience to their feet. Thank you to show Chairmen **Byron Walton & Carl Gung** and Producer/Writer **Al Alain**.



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Inspiration

By Charlie Metzger



Sometimes people are inspired by an idea, sometimes by a hero, sometimes by a wonderful performance or achievement. We imagine some circumstance that might lie in the future; we colour it big, brilliant and beautiful, give it a soundtrack that is tuneful, resonant and approving, and feel ourselves potentially part of it. In

taking it on for ourselves, we likely do some short, medium and long-term planning, and then we get to work on whatever seems to us to come first. Ten years, ten thousand hours later, we find ourselves in the middle of that big brilliant, beautiful future we imagined. It won't likely be quite what we imagined - it will certainly be a lot more detailed and nuanced - but it will be the future we imagined.

You can probably identify something like what I'm describing in your own life. It might have been a future job, a future mate, something you wanted to build, something you wanted to create. You likely know this process because it has worked for you at some, or even many, times in your life.

Forty years ago barbershop, particularly but not exclusively the male version, was in a different state than today. The **Vancouver Thunderbirds** were the big dogs, the **Howe Sounds** the recent District Champion Quartet following an earlier one, the **Model T Four**. Today we could ask **Abie Klassen, Tucker, Moe and Gordy Cousins** about how it was. There was a fine quartet singing in the Bellingham area, **The Poets**, lead by **Dick Clark**. No one in the Vancouver area had made much of an impact on the International scene. We had no local judges, no one who was contributing at the International level that I am aware of. I'm not sure how much participation there was from local barbershoppers in International level schools. Coaches from outside were an extremely rare occurrence - I'm not sure it even happened.

***"Let your passion burn brightly
and lead you forward"***

What's the scene today? **Marty Lovick** got involved in the judging program and stuck with that, putting in his 10 000 hours. He's now the incoming Category Specialist for the Presentation category, a coach in the Quartet Coaching School at Harmony University. **Elie Savoie, Rob Hood, Marty** and **I** have all taught classes at Harmony College, Quartet College, and Directors College at Harmony University. Marty has certainly put in his 10 years and 10,000 hours.

Brava paid their dues, winning Regional, then going on to become our first Queens of Harmony in Sweet Adelines Inc. There are several quartets in the **Lions Gate Chapter** who are competing internationally, and, of course, we know the successes of that Chapter under **Sandy Marron's** leadership. They also have people serving their International organization and schools. Many have put in their 10 and 10 of passionate involvement.

We, the **Gentlemen of Fortune**, are a bit slower about things, but we have competed internationally on three occasions, won District twice, and been Division champs consistently since 1983, and sent many quartets to the International contest including **Sound Policy, Vintage 81, Sonic Boom, The Edge, Counterpoint**, and **Realtime** our first Canadian gold winner. **Antique Gold** competed at the International Seniors contest half a

dozen times before winning gold. A great many of these men put in their 10 and 10.

To manage 10,000 hours of skill building in any endeavour, passion, commitment and energy had to be present in significant quantity, likely ignited by the example of someone before or by a consuming idea of what might be. Building that kind of skill seems to mean a yearly 1000 hour investment, or about 20 hours a week of some kind of engagement in listening, singing, quarteting, arranging, studying, taking lessons, learning songs, performing, chorus singing, tag singing, etc.

Andry Layarda has been a member for only a handful of years - but he brought thousands of hours of applicable skills to the process and is involved in singing at church, in multiple small groups, several choruses, and a fine quartet. I'd bet he's beyond the 10 and 10 already.

If you've been passionate about barbershop for 10 years, learning music and participating fully in the chorus, perhaps in quartets, you're likely logging better than 500 hours of skill building. This is why we do as well as we do. Want to be at the top of this game? Let your passion burn brightly and lead you forward.

Multiplicity of Singing Engagements

By David Jones



Ed Arnold (left) was recently appointed to the GOF Board as VP communications & Promotion and wasted little time in filling our calendar with singing engagements and performances following our hosting of the District Convention at Whistler. Just prior to our

Christmas Shows at the end of November, we were again invited to sing Christmas music at **St. Mary's Catholic Church** Vancouver which was enthusiastically received. The following afternoon we sang at **Como Lake Untied Church** to an appreciative audience.

One of the new developments resulting from the increased number of engagements was the formation of the very small chorus (VSC). This is a group of approximately twenty-one members who are free to perform during the day for hospitals, senior homes and the like. The VSC have been invaluable in bringing harmony and songs to shut-ins.

Among our performances was an invitation so sing at the celebratory tea provided for supporters of the **Lions Gate Hospital Foundation**. A trip out to Richmond took us to **Courtyard Gardens** where we helped the senior citizens enhance their Christmas celebrations.

We also sang in **Maple Ridge** at the senior's centre where **Gordie Cousins**, one of our long time members, lives with his wife Verna. Gordie was largely responsible for encouraging residents to attend our show at which we recognized his 60th year of membership in the BHS.

At the **Lougheed Mall** we tried to enlist new members whilst singing Christmas Carols for the shoppers. Two of our later engagements were at **Century House** in New Westminster and the **Fleetwood Centre** in Surrey. Both audiences were attentive and appreciative of our efforts. We concluded our schedule by singing lustily to the **Vanoc** organization Christmas party on Dec 21st.

A big thank you to Ed for organizing the performances.

MLT Update

By Byron Walton, VP Music & Performance



Gentlemen, what an exciting and profitable end to 2009!! With **Ed Arnold** arranging 11 performances for November & December, he reports that we made almost \$4,000 on them, plus over \$4,000 on our 2 Christmas shows for a total of \$8,000!!!!

Congratulations GOF and thank you each and every one of you for your contributions. I also want to personally thank the members of the **Very Small Chorus** for their awesome performances over the past 2 months. You have indeed sung wonderfully, brought much joy & entertainment to our audiences and it has been a great pleasure to share these performances with you.

The annual show was an awesome success and I want to thank the whole chorus for their great efforts, and the various committees that contributed their time and skills. I don't have the total number of seats we sold but it appears we were close to sell outs! We did however have 151 folks attend the After Glow and made over \$500.

Thank you **Antique Gold, Realtime & Lions Gate Chorus** for your awesome performances, you truly helped make this year's show a great success.

Now, on to 2010...I am looking forward to an exciting year for the GOF. We already have three songs ready to start learning and start the year off on a new journey in learning and improving our skills. I propose a New Year's resolution for each chorus member: let's all make a concentrated effort to learn our music perfectly and in a timely manner, in order that we can focus more on our overall performance and continue to grow as the "Mighty GOF". Let's all take personal responsibility to do our very best for the chorus, be it learning music and

choreography, working on a committee, or assisting in membership growth over the next year. Gentlemen, we do have the skills, we do have awesome Members, and we do have a great Chapter! Let's all contribute and make 2010 one of the best years for the GOF.

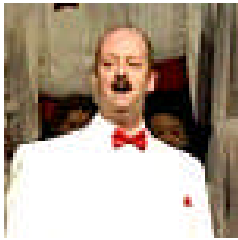
I wish each and every one of you and your families a wonderful Christmas and the very best in 2010.

Chapter Development

From VP: **Dave Whittier**

TIME “Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.” - H. Jackson Brown

Of all the things in our life, time is the ultimate non-renewable resource. We can get more money. We can get more stuff, more space, responsibilities, cars, children, jobs, etc, etc. You can make up a list as long as you want. Time, however, remains forever fixed.



I say this because we are going to be having some interesting discussions in the near future, we Gentlemen of Fortune. We want people to have the chance to air their views on our chorus, our culture, where we are and where

we should be going. These discussions may result in a sea change for GOF, or they may reinforce the status quo. Either result is good, as long as we get there in the spirit of brotherhood and openness that means so much to us being part of this great group of guys.

However, no matter which direction our chapter decides to go, I am going to want more of your time. Our chapter has lost more men than it has gained in the past year, and many of those who left our ranks were some of the younger guys who injected so much energy and enthusiasm into this hobby. No matter where we go as a chorus, I'm pretty confident we're going to want to grow. That's going to take more than just one little membership guy. It's going to take the combined efforts of many, and the more men who pitch in to help out, the less of their precious and limited time I will have to tap into so that we can go where we want to go.

In short, we'll grow exactly as much or as little as you make us grow. Stay tuned!

Dilbert's Rules of Order

#14: Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience.

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



Here are the highlights of the most recent Board of Directors meeting held at Ed Arnold's residence on **November 16th**.

Honorary Secretary **Dave Jones** reported that membership was holding steady at 67 members with around 53 on the risers.

Honorary Treasurer **Gord Ross** had distributed the financial documents prior to the meeting. Basically, we have managed to cover our expenses to date. At the time the final figures from our District Convention were not in. The Christmas Show hadn't taken place either. By and large, the chapter is in reasonable financial shape. We also have a number of paid singouts in the offing, thanks to our 'singout guy' **Ed Arnold**.

Don Giles reported on progress with our CD Project. Nothing has been scheduled yet, but the plan is to start recording in January. He will be working on a contract with our recording engineer.

Progress with the Christmas Show marketing plan was presented by **Byron Walton**. The plan included contacting high schools in the lower mainland with music programs. **Ed Arnold** volunteered to cover the North Shore schools.

Dave Whittier reported that the domain name gof.bc.ca had been booked and would be in place for ten years after which it would have to be renewed. Going to this site would automatically take the user to groupanizer together with a record of 'bit strikes'. Byron thanked Dave for his stellar efforts on this matter.

Dave Whittier, VP Chapter Development, will encourage members to bring guests. He plans to contact students at community colleges and universities in January through March 2010.

Ed Arnold, VP PR & Marketing reviewed the singouts booked before and after the Christmas Show. He advised that Valentine's Day would be problematic next year with the day itself being a Sunday and the Olympics bringing on restricted movement through the city.

It was decided that the 2010 planning meeting will take place on January 9th at 15988 – 83rd Avenue, Surrey, BC. **Gord Ross** thanked those who had taken on extra sheets from the mailing list. There are about 400 names still to be contacted. This will be organized in January.

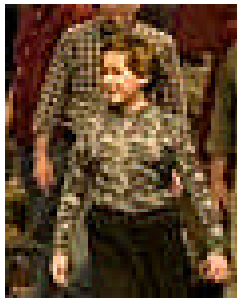
Next meeting is scheduled for **Mon February 1st, 2010**.

[The evolution of] My Solo Part

The Memoirs Of Some Kid Who Can Sing Stuff.

By Shoji Whittier

In the beginning, I had no solo; I was just a singing stick that didn't know the notes. I changed over the years; I had my first show and my first competition and started to become a better singer. Then, one Tuesday night, it was announced that we would be singing a song called *You Raise Me Up*. After a while of singing it, it was suggested to my brother Taro and me to do a solo part in *You Raise Me Up* and we decided to do it.



At first our solo was just ear-splitting noise, but after months and months, mom was able to make our solo sound good. Eventually, Taro's voice started changing, and it forced him to temporarily quit the solo, leaving me to do it, alone. Ta-da!!!!

By the time the show season started, I was a pro at soloing, and during one show I think I got a standing ovation! Doing the solo has not only helped my singing, it has helped me be more confident in myself, and more confident when speaking in public.



December 2009 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1969)

Abie Kassen was out front directing and received the BOTY award. There was talk about the International Mid Winter that was to be held in Jan 1970 in Seattle with quartets such as the **Golden Staters, Sundowners, Mark IV, Oriole 4** and **Avant Guard**. A pitch and put competition was held within the chapter with nine quartets competing and won by the **Ring-a-lings (Bob Blair, Stan McCreary, Abie Klassen and Ben Fast)**. There was a special appearance at the chapter meeting of the **What's a Family 4**, composed of **Alex Hood, Ross Hood, Neil Hood and Rob Hood**.

30 Years ago this month (1979)

Charlie put his annual speech into writing in '79 and it took two full pages in **Jack Faust's** Christmas bulletin. Items on his wish list could be printed in this year's and would not sound out of date. The **Victoria Chapter** hosted a **BIG WHEEL** with quite a few of our members attending. Membership was reported at 81 members. We were giving special awards for perfect attendance for a

month, then a pin for perfect attendance for a year. Our Christmas Show was named "**NOSTALGIA**".

20 Years ago this month (1989)

The Christmas Show was titled "**SOUNDS LIKE CHRISTMAS**". The show started with a family scene, complete with Mom, Dad and three kids. The scene bounced back and forth with the use of lighting between the family dialogue and the chorus singing the appropriate Christmas Carol. We did the Wizard of Oz package and then we brought on the **Aliens**.

Happenings & Reminders

Chapter Planning Meeting

Your Board invites you to participate in the continuing development of your chapter by making an in-person contribution at a Planning Meeting to be held at 9.30am on **January 9, 2010** at 115 – 15988 83rd Ave, Surrey

Be a participant in any changes that occur. Hopefully all of the participants are on the risers and the observers are found only in our show audience.

New Songs

Did you know that there are three (3) new songs posted on groupanizer? Which you are expected to learn asap? They are "*Do You Hear The People Sing*" (off the paper early Jan) "*You May Be My Used To Be*" (our next Contest song) and "*Beach Boys Medley*". Music and learning tracks are there. Get them and use them.

Awards & Installation

The Awards and Installation Banquet will be held in early March so as not to conflict with the 2 Olympics. The Call for Awards Nominations will be coming out soon so start thinking about candidates for GoF Hall of Fame, Barbershop of the Year, Barbershop Fellowship Award and Barbershop Woman of the Year.

CD Recording

Our next chorus recording session is **Sat January 23rd**. Keep this date available so that we have a full chorus.



UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Wire Wheel: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard earned guitar calluses from fingers in about the time it takes to say, “YEOWW...”

Comment #84 by Bill Gibbons

“No member of the chorus is completely useless – he can always be used as a horrible example.”

Deadline for the next issue is January 26, 2010

CALENDAR

Dec 25 **Merry Christmas**
Dec 29 Dark Night

2010

Jan 9 GoF Chapter Planning Session
Jan 23 **CD Recording Session**
Jan 26-31 Midwinter International, Tampa, FL
Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
Feb 14 **Valentine’s Day**
Mar 6 (?) Installation & Awards Banquet
Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics
April 2 Easter
April 9-10 **Division I /Prelims** Abbotsford
May 24 Victoria Day
June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
Sept 6 Labour Day
Sept 23-26 **District Convention** Portland, OR
Oct 11 Thanksgiving

2011

Jan 18-23 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ

Internationals

2011 Kansas City, MO
2012 Portland, OR



Arthur Loyie & John Van Zanten: Christmas Show Foyer



Show Emcees: Dave Whittier, Byron Walton & Ray Fallan



Sing out at Vanoc for the 2010 Winter Olympics Staff



Sing out at the Loughheed Mall
(all photos by Carl & Wendy Gung)



50/50 Show at Como Lake United Church