

**WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY, THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE CHORUS ENRICHES SOCIETY
 WITH EXCELLENT BARBERSHOP MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT**

2010 - No.1 – January-February

Inter-Chapter Night



On Tuesday December 22nd the GoF hosted an inter-chapter visit night at the Como Lake United Church. Joining the Gentlemen of Fortune were men from Vancouver Thunderbirds, Langley First Capital BBS Chorus, Abbotsford Voices of Harmony and Chilliwack Harmony Chorus; as well as the local Sweet Adelines Choruses. There were over 45 men and ladies on the risers for the warm up and mass sing finale.



One of the VLQs from GoF, SAI and Langley

Tenors were separated out and each formed the nucleus of a VLQ (Very Large

Quartet). They were given 10 minutes to practice and then performed for the others. This was followed by each chorus doing their thing; with a few dual members present it made for some interesting combinations and shirt changes.



Christmas cheer and more harmony were then enjoyed at Me-N-Ed's.

Chilliwack Chorus on Stage

Fallan's Carol Party

On Friday December 18th it was time for the Annual Christmas Carol Party at Ray & Dorothy Fallan's house. As usual Dorothy put on a fabulous spread with Ray taking care of libations.



Over 2 dozen GoF members, spouses and family had a great time inside and then went outside to serenade the neighbourhood. The weather was great compared to 2008 when the snow was deep and crisp but not necessarily even.

Byron did a great job directing and, from the picture on the right, finally saw the light.

At the Fleetwood Community Centre GoF 50/50 Show the next afternoon there were a few hoarse voices and bleary eyes.



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Annual Planning Session

By Rich Clark, President



The second annual GoF planning session was held on January 9, 2010 at the Glenridge Estates clubhouse.

Twenty-five chorus members participated in varying degrees depending on the topic. With **Gerry Borden's** assistance we resolved the identity crisis between the Chapter

Vision and Mission, and clarified the **Vision Statement** as – WORKING IN FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY, THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE CHORUS ENRICHES SOCIETY WITH EXCELLENT BARBERSHOP MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Resolving whether or not to include “A Level” in the **Mission Statement** was delegated to a task force chaired by **Gerry Borden** and members **Charlie Metzger**, **George Gregory** and **Rich Clark**. The Mission

Statement task has been completed and A Level standard has been retained. In an attempt to identify the criteria for measuring our progress to that objective, another Task Force was mobilized with chair **Dave Whittier** and members **Jim Gibson**, **Mac Matheson** and **Byron Walton**. Criteria and a plan for providing members learning encouragement will be ready for the BOD to handle at its next meeting on Feb 1. My sense of it, from the membership, the MLT and other leadership, is that there is interest in some improvement in our performance product, and some impatience with the slowness of that improvement. The large turnout at the meeting gives me some confidence in that assessment but only the future will tell.

The **Membership/Recruiting** topic generated lively discussion and **Dave Whittier** emphasized that progress on this task will require a team of people providing leadership to every chorus member. Ideas contributed will be evaluated for implementation.

Charlie provided insight into his music choosing process and the delicate balance that he manages between our appetite for new music and our commitment to turning that music into entertainment. Suggestions for new music are encouraged as long as supported with the prerequisite details on how the music contributes to our progress.

Byron has been appointed as the new **Assistant Director**, taking over from **Andry Layarda** who has had to step down to take advantage of business opportunities. Quarteting activities will be encouraged by a new organized program Byron has prepared.

Reporting of our progress towards this new set of objectives will take place at least on a quarterly basis. For those unable to attend the meeting, you are not precluded from providing your suggestions or your shoulder at the wheel of whatever wagon you believe deserves your contribution.

MLT Update

By **Byron Walton**, VP Music & Performance

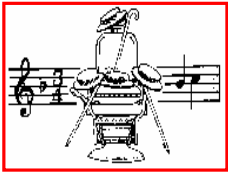


GOF Music/Performance Standards:

Further to our planning meeting held January 9th, the Music/Performance Standards team is developing a new program for the chorus to ensure we are all in a position to improve our singing & performance abilities. We

will have a program prepared for the Feb 1 Board meeting for their perusal & acceptance. Full details of the program will be provided in early February.

Weekly Quartet Program: Byron has put together a weekly Quarteting program for the chorus. Please sign up for this program in order that we can make this a great success for all members who would like to be involved in a Quartet experience. Coaching will be made available, along with opportunities to perform for the chorus & public performances. How about getting together with 3 other guys & competing at the next Division 1 Contest...it's a great experience!!!!



January-February 2010
Down
Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1970)

The Big Wheel contest hosted by **Langley** was well attended with 23 quartets. Entertainment was provided by the **Poets** and the **Howe Sounds**. The top trophy went to a quartet from **North Vancouver**, but the stage presence trophy was won by the **Generation Gap** consisting of **Rob Hood, Alex Hood, Marty Lovick** and



Ben Fast (l to r). The International Mid-Winter was held in Seattle. The top five quartets in the Society were there to

entertain, including the **Mark IV, Sundowners** and **Oriole 4**. About 300 barbershoppers from all over Evergreen District crowded on stage for a mass chorus performance.

30 Years ago this month (1980)

Quartets within the chapter in January 1980 were **North Pacific Union, Good Time Harmony Music Co, The Kostal Keys** and the **Sound Policy**. **Wally Coe** agreed to make coaching the chorus his No.1 priority. A Logopedics Spectacular was held at the QE Theatre with four chapter choruses involved. **Chester Colpitts** (who else) chaired the show and **Bob Johnston** from the International office was the director of the mass chorus. Four Quartets also appeared on stage, the **Sound Policy, University Way, Chicago News** and **Classic Collection**. What a great show.

20 Years ago this month (1990)

President **Rob Hood** described few known facts about the **Wizard Of Oz** in a half page article in the bulletin

edited by **Wayne Tampkin**. Such as, the Land of Oz name came when Frank Baum (the author) was looking for a name for a story he was telling his family and his eyes fell on a two-drawer filing cabinet where the top drawer was labelled A-N and the second O-Z. All this was told drawing members to keep in mind the fact that in May of 1990 we were to be doing our **Wizard Of Oz** package in **Carnegie Hall**. One of the highlights of our chapter's performance delights. A group of more than 80 consisting of members and wives flew from Seattle to New York's LaGuardia airport and were bussed to the Penta hotel. What a great trip it was.

Youth in Harmony

By **Bill Martin**

We were quite busy in 2009. We held workshops in several schools, in Surrey, Vancouver Maple Ridge, and Burnaby, with the help of our Teaching quartet, **West Coast Fusion**.



Harmony Explosion was in Tacoma in July. About 10 to 12 students participated from the Lower Mainland, from Chilliwack to Abbotsford, to Burnaby, to Langley, and White Rock. **Taro Whittier** and **Jeremy Wong** were there singing up a storm. Quite a few students thought barbershop was cool. Only time will tell.

They had a great time, had a great Saturday evening show, headlined by **OC Times**, and the **Abbotsford Voices of Harmony**. The kids showcased their talents in singing, as well as musical instruments. One young lady, from Chilliwack, wowed the audience playing the flute; she has won several awards. The quartets, formed mostly by the students there (many of whom hadn't sung in a quartet before) were very good, very musical.

2010 seems to be getting off to a fine start, with the **Canadian Youth Chorus** going down to Florida to compete in the International Youth Chorus Contest. There is quite a contingency of BC students attending, including **Nick Tinney**. Thanks to all who were able to contribute to helping students with costs (the GoF members donated \$1,000.00 Ed).

On February 6, YIH will be conducting a seminar in Chilliwack, thanks in part to the efforts of **Gerry Borden**, and the **Chilliwack Chorus**.

Dilbert's Rules of Order

#4: Accept that some days you are the pigeon and some days the statue.

Happenings & Reminders

QCED President



Moe Jones was elected President of the Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District (QCED) at their Annual General meeting on January 16th in Seaside, OR.
Way to go Moe!

Valentine's Day to be Missed

At the January 9th Planning Meeting the Valentine's Day fund raiser for 2010 was discussed and a number of potential problems were identified:

- Chorus members, who have organized the program in past years, are involved with the Olympics this year.
- Only one or two quartets indicated their availability in response to a call for quartets to participate.
- Valentine's Day is on Sunday, the least desirable day to access businesses and possibly residents involved with church and other family activities.
- Due to the Winter Olympics, travel in the downtown Vancouver area will be restricted.

As a result the Board has decided not to participate in a Valentine's Day program this year. If chorus members or quartets are interested in taking advantage of any Valentines singout opportunities, they are encouraged to make their own arrangements. A full Valentines Day singout is planned for 2011.

New Songs

Don't forget the 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 already), "You May Be My Used To Be" (our next Contest song and to be off the paper by Feb 2) 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 on March 6 at the West Vancouver Yacht club. The Call for Awards Nominations closes **Tuesday, February 2nd**. Voting takes place on **February 16th** and our four distinguished awards will be presented at the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet.

CD Recording

Our next chorus recording session is Sat February 20th. Keep this date available so that we have a full chorus. Songs to be recorded are: *Sweet Little Jesus Boy, Angels we have Heard on High, White Christmas & We wish*

you a Merry Christmas. Get out the music and learning tapes and brush up on your performance.
(Late note: it may be postponed for the Olympics)

UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Straight Screwdriver: A tool for opening paint cans. Sometimes used to convert common slotted screws into non-removable screws

Comment #76 by Bill Gibbons

"Every chorus requires a contest to sustain it's own sense of worth."

Deadline for the next issue is February 23, 2010

CALENDAR

2010

Feb 12-28	Winter Olympics
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 16	Awards Vote
Feb 20 (?)	CD Recording N Vancouver
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
Aug 7	GoF Annual BBQ @ Byron's
Sept 6	Labour Day
Sept 10-12	Retreat Squamish
Sept 23-26	District Convention Portland, OR
Oct 11	Thanksgiving
Oct 12(?)	Election of GoF Board of Directors
Oct 19-23	SAI International, Seattle, WA
Dec 4(?)	Christmas Show

2011

Jan 18-23	Midwinter International, Las Vegas
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
April 22	Easter
July 3-10	International, Kansas City, MO
Sept 5	Labour Day
Sept 28-Oct 2	PanPacific Convention, Brisbane
Oct 10	Thanksgiving

Internationals

2012	Portland, OR
2013	Toronto, ON

Photos by Carl Gung