

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

**2010 - No.9 – December**

## Radio Waves

By Rich Clark

The theme of the Christmas Show was a radio broadcast from the 1940's, complete with radio announcer **Elie Savoie**. From the broadcast studio on stage right, he introduced the songs and performers, while pitching a number of personal care products with miracle healing properties during performer changes.



**Northwest Vocal Project & Gentlemen of Fortune**

The show began with the GOF singing their set of contemporary tunes, followed by chorus quartets **Motones (Clarence Stad, Moe Jones, Gordon Ross, Ed Arnold)** and **Mental Notes (Arthur Loyie, George Gregory, Ray Fallan, Bill Martin)**. The guest chorus, District Champs **Northwest Vocal Project (NVP)**, directed by **Neal Booth**, brought the energy of youth to our stage. The performance of NVP chorus and their



**Motones**

four quartets was wrapped around the intermission and was an audience favourite. Fortunately one of their quartets, **Class Act**, with little notice, filled in for **Antique Gold** who had to cancel due to illness.

The GOF finished the show with their Christmas set, and NVP joined them for the final two songs. The depth of sound brought back memories of the GOF when I first joined. **Charlie & Byron** shared the directing duties and did an admirable job of melding the voices and emotions into a great presentation.

The theatre was about two-thirds full for the matinee show and they were an enthusiastic audience. A smaller

crowd was present for the evening show in spite of the fact that there were no weather deterrents this year. Probably a sign of the advancing age of our target audience.

The Afterglow was attended by a small but enthusiastic crowd, who enjoyed the plentiful spread of food contributed by chorus members and spouses. Most members of NVP had to leave right after the show, so their quartets weren't available to sing. **Motones** and **Lisa Hood's** quartet provided the entertainment and received great encouragement from the audience.

I was delegated the enjoyable task of handing out the door and draw prizes. While handing out the 50/50 money on the evening show, I found myself on the hot seat when a second winner appeared. Fortunately I was able to retrieve the money and hand it to the rightful winner. I had not realized that the 50/50 tickets were sold from multiple rolls and, when I called out the number, I read only the last three digits. Lo and behold there were two tickets with the same last three numbers. Paying the second winner could have consumed my next six month's allowance



**Mental Notes**

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## When Insults Had Class

(Before English got boiled down to 4-letter words)

*"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."* Oscar Wilde

***Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year***

## 2010 Chapter Officers

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## Show Feedback

**[From the Evernet]** Wow, did NVP (Northwest Vocal Project) ever have a great time last weekend. The GOF (Gentlemen of Fortune) in BC had us sing on their show and it was awesome! I think NVP has found out what we really love to do and that is sing for and entertain the public. We have gotten a taste of singing on chapter shows and want more, more, more. Our portion of the show featured 4 quartets too! U4eeuh, Lullaby quartet, Hhhhhhhhhhhhh, Class Act.

Thanks to Charlie and the GOF gang for bringing us up to sing. A superb time was had by all! I recommend anyone in the lower mainland of BC and northern Washington to not miss a GOF show in the future. They are entertaining and feature good singing, great sets, costuming, interesting varied music, and good quartets.

Neal Booth  
Humble director of NVP

## Guests of Shanti Ghose

- "It was a great show as usual, very enjoyable, especially the pleasant sound of young voices from the NVP Chorus."
- "The Beach Boys songs were fantastic! I was annoyed that my neighbour persisted in joining in and singing in her off key voice to spoil my enjoyment."
- "What a moving rendering of Mary Did You Know!"
- "We are looking forward to making this a part of our Christmas traditions. What a great kick start to the holiday season"
- "Gentlemen of Fortune started the show and then seemed to disappear from the scene until the very end; would have liked a bit more from the hosts."
- "I was a bit disturbed and sad to see the emptiness in the theatre."
- Excellent reviews from some 10 "first timers" to our show to say how much they enjoyed our singing, the variety of arrangements and styles we had within the a capella and the range of our repertoire. These comments from a couple of ladies familiar with some well known local Choral Groups who perform with music books.
- Another "lucky" first timer, an Architect, who not only enjoyed the show but ended up winning \$258.00 kitty for the 50-50 draw. He said that he will be very keen on attending our future shows.
- One long-time guest recalled one of his happiest memories of one show years ago, when a "short fellow dressed up as an Elf appeared to float mid air across the stage". I reminded him that he is still very much with us, still very short, and was directing some of our songs that night as the Assistant Director.



Christmas Show Lobby Layout by John Van Zanten

## UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

**Drill Press:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly-stained heirloom piece you were drying.

## Christmas Singouts

### Como Lake United Church

On Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> we put on a 50/50 show for our host church. It was an excellent precursor for the Christmas Show the next weekend. Supported by **Antique Gold** the chorus was greatly appreciated as evidenced by the card from **Ray Thompson** the founder and Director of the **Coquitlam Chorale**:

*Just wanted to acknowledge your choral group's wonderful program yesterday. From the very opening selection you all showed that "joy of singing" that is just so engaging and contagious.*

*But it was the superior musicianship that really grabbed my attention – superior blend of voices, (never pushed), sustained phrasing, dynamic contrasts, exact tuning (so rare in amateur choirs) and great presentation with choreography that complimented the text, (never over riding it). This all represents much dedication, hours of practice and "leave your ego at the door" teamwork. Bravo!*

*Thank you – and do continue that joy of singing!!*

### Lions Gate Hospital

By Peter Lissett

Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup> was pretty wet and miserable. However, this made no difference to the people of the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation gathered for their annual 'tea'. The GoF gentlemen of the 'Very Small Chorus', numbering about 23, were welcomed with smiles and applause. **Byron Walton**, our director of the day, lead us in 'Nevertheless' followed by 'Only You', then the **Motones** performed three songs and did a fine job. The rest of the performance went off very well with **Ed Arnold** doing a great job MCing.

Some of us then followed **Tucker Goodwin** through the labyrinthine hospital corridors to sing to his cousin. This went over very well indeed. We sang down the hall to a patient who was scheduled to come to our Christmas Show but suffered a heart attack. But we had to decline



the nursing staff request to sing on the other wards as people had to get away. Food for thought though.

Tucker's cousin **Bob Faulkner**, a barbershopper with

North Vancouver in the '70s, and age 84, sang along with the GoF small chorus at Lions Gate Hospital. Bob's sister Betty (a choir director for 30 years) said: **Tucker and GOF... Many, many thanks for coming to sing for**

**Bob on Wednesday. It was a very meaningful time and obviously Bob enjoyed it immensely. The singing was beautiful and such a good balance. I was particularly touched by the quality of voices and the blend. Where do you get all these guys?**

### Courtyard Gardens

By Peter Lissett

Located in Darkest Richmond, not too far from Tucker's place, is the Courtyard Gardens. It provides genteel accommodation for those of a certain age. We've been invited back there many times, at least five.

On Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup>, with numbers amounting to the same as the Very Small Chorus, we warmed up as usual in the 'Carnation Room'. Thence we filed down stairs to entertain those residents who require a little assistance getting by each day, many in wheelchairs.

The pitch had been blown and Director of the Day, **Byron Walton**, had his arms raised when there was a loud '**Ho! Ho! Ho!**' from the back of the room. Santa and Mrs Claus had entered the room. Well, that didn't deter us, but it did delay us for a minute or two!

Once again, the **Motones** stepped to the front to sing 'I'll be Home for Christmas'. They did a fine job and judging by the reception the chorus did very well too.

Then we climbed the stairs to the bigger room, which was filled to capacity, and repeated our performance. Once again, we were very well received. I'm sure we'll be back again next year.



### Lougheed Mall

By Peter Lissett

Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> we were at the Lougheed Mall. Not the easiest

place to sing at with shoppers buzzing back and forth, people wheeling carts and so on. Well, this year was quite a different experience than previous years. For starters, there were many more seats arranged in front of the risers than hitherto.

There was quite a crowd in the seats, standing around the edges and in the back when we took our places on the risers. This was the best audience yet! We all had a lovely time and sang really well. **Bob Bradley's** solo for the second verse of 'O Holy Night' received tumultuous applause. 'Freddy' was very popular too. The whole show was just great for us and the audience. Credit to MC **Ed Arnold**, who did a wonderful job and **Byron Walton**, Director of the day.

## 2010 Awards: Call for Nominations

It is time to recognize members of our barbershop family who have made outstanding contributions over the past year (and longer). Each year four formal GoF awards are presented - they are listed below.



Submit your nominations to any member of the Awards Committee: **Peter Lissett** [plissett@shaw.ca](mailto:plissett@shaw.ca) or **Don Giles** [dongiles@shaw.ca](mailto:dongiles@shaw.ca) by **Tuesday, January 11, 2011**. Nominations should include the name of the candidate and reason for nomination. Wives &/or significant others may nominate for the BWOTY award. Don't worry if you can't remember all of the contributions your nominee has made during the year. With your help the awards committee will research each nominee and prepare a list of qualifying criteria.

### Hall of Fame

This is the highest award that can be bestowed upon a chapter member, who has been with the GoF for at least 10 years. It is primarily based on contributions, of an exceptional nature, over a long period of one's barbershop life, to the GoF, but could include contributions to barbershop in general.

Past Recipients: Charlie Metzger, Chester Colpitts, Elie Savoie, Marty Lovick, George Meehan, Tom Bates, Realtime and Antique Gold.

### Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)

The criteria for this award are really wide open and all encompassing (with the exception of the criteria for the Barbershop Fellowship Award below). It includes contributions in any area of barbershop activity whether it is musical or administrative. They may have been within the chapter or external (District or Society-wide). Can be won more than once.

### Barbershop Fellowship Award (BFA)

This award recognizes someone who has demonstrated a high degree of fellowship, love and harmony toward his fellow chapter members. The focus here is on the first phrase of our mission statement ('Working together in fellowship . . .').

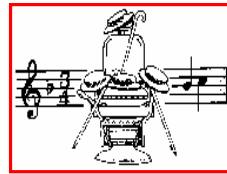
Can be won more than once.

### Barbershop Woman of the Year (BWOTY)

The criteria for this award are wide open and all encompassing. They may include, but not be limited to,

contributions in the areas of makeup, costuming, special events, social events, conventions, etc. Can be won more than once.

Consider which of your fellow members (and the ladies) deserve special recognition for the contributions they have made. There are many who have worked hard on your behalf over this past year and before, so get your nominations in to **Peter** or **Don** by **Tuesday, Jan 11**. Voting takes place on **January 18** and our four distinguished awards will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet on **February 12<sup>th</sup>**.



## December 2010 Down Memory Lane By Ross Hood

### 40 years ago this month (1970)

The Calgary convention was "The greatest convention Evergreen has ever seen". These are words that I wrote back in 1970. I was a veteran of five whole years of barbershopping and I must have known what I was talking about. The **Seattle Seachordsmen** placed first with the **Spokane Pages of Harmony** second. **Most Happy Fellows** were third behind the **Poets** and the **Artesians**.

### 30 years ago this month (1980)

At the annual Installation Banquet held at Newlands Golf Club in Langley, **Byron Walton** was presented with the Barbershopper of the Year Award. A Barbershop school and quartet clinic was held at the Squire Inn in Coquitlam in the midst of a snow storm. **Charlie Metzger** and **Randy Peters** were the backbone of the faculty. It was an all-day event from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm.

### 20 years ago this month (1990)

President **Rob Hood** presented some inspiring words after his very busy year that included the trip to Carnegie Hall. "--- Bringing together a tight performance has also brought a tight chorus family. We didn't set out to establish camaraderie, it just happened. It happened because we worked hard for a common purpose and it paid off. It also resulted in added dividends. We produced a high quality performance package, increased overall chorus attendance, raised chapter pride and not only attracted but retained members. We have an opportunity to prolong this wonderful spirit. The chorus' future is in our hands...**IT ENDS WITH 'US'.**"

## What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



Here are the highlights from the **November 8<sup>th</sup>** meeting held at Dave Whittier's place of work:-

Honorary Treasurer, **Gord Ross**, highlighted items from his financial report. He indicated that we normally make charitable donations at this time of year to the Vancouver Oral Society and Youth in Harmony. It was decided to maintain the tradition, the chapter's resources being sufficiently healthy at the moment.

Gord reported that \$45,000 of the **Ian McGillivray Legacy Fund** is invested in a cashable GIC with the \$5,000 balance remaining in the chapter's bank account.

Honorary Secretary, **Dave Jones's** report noted that the chapter has 67 registered members according to the database in Nashville with 48 members on the risers. Segments of the Music Director's contract for 2011/12 were discussed at some length. Refinements will be made by **Peter Lissett** for discussion at the next meeting.

It was noted by **Gord Ross** that the chapter has been receiving generous services from a number of people over the last few years for which they had received little if any recognition. It was decided that this situation would be remedied forthwith.

It was decided that planning for Valentines 2011 should begin very soon. **Byron Walton** will be liaising with **George Gregory** incoming VP Music. **Dave Whittier** reported that the use of Paypal for Christmas Show tickets was easier than expected. He was most pleased! It was agreed that we should proceed with the CD project early next year.

### David Anderson Offers Learning Track Workshops in January & February

We need to improve our song learning. We've done well but more precision is needed.

We're musicians. Musicians aspire to move the audience with the beauty and believability of their performance. But beauty shines only if nothing distracts. Anything competing for the attention of the listener - or the performer - interferes with our goal. (We've seen this recently!) Naturally, the fewer the distractions, the more involved the audience and the more satisfied the singers.

A room that's too hot or somebody talking nearby may spoil the song, but often with choral music the main culprit is performance error. Among the greatest of

distractions is the tentativeness of singers who can't lose themselves in the music because they aren't sure of the words, notes or technique. Every one needs a reliable system to gain 100% confidence with these details.

**"GREATEST...DISTRACTION IS THE TENTATIVENESS OF SINGERS BECAUSE THEY AREN'T SURE OF THE WORDS, NOTES OR TECHNIQUE"**

We now have excellent audio tracks for our songs. If each of us makes the best possible use of this superb tool, the chorus will sound better, sing more musically and have more fun in the process.

We do feel comfortable with any song we hear repeatedly, and singing along comes naturally to all barbershoppers. It's a big jump, however, from "singing along" to precision and confidence with every detail. Many GOF members have said they're not sure exactly how to do it. This must be so, or Charlie wouldn't need to correct words and notes just before we go on stage!

**"IT'S A BIG JUMP...FROM 'SINGING ALONG' TO PRECISION AND CONFIDENCE WITH EVERY DETAIL"**

We are going to learn *some* words and notes to our songs. Why not learn the *right* ones - from the very beginning? (Have you ever noticed how hard it is to learn a new word or note once the initial learning has been done?)

We need to understand a few concepts and master a few skills to get the most out of our truly superb learning tracks - to learn any song extremely well. These concepts and skills are all easy, but the concepts do need to be clarified and the skills do need to be practiced. If we will all now master this method, our music will *immediately* be better and we'll have a lot more fun. So will Charlie! Nothing less will do.

**"WE ARE GOING TO LEARN *SOME* WORDS AND NOTES TO OUR SONGS. WHY NOT LEARN THE *RIGHT* ONES - FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?"**

I'll be holding workshops on this subject in January and February for those who wish to improve the precision of their learning and speed up the process. Times will be flexible, not on chorus nights. Please email me if you're interested, telling me when could work for you. Not everybody will be able to attend every session. I have in mind Monday or Friday afternoons and any time Saturdays or Sundays, likely at somebody's house for simplicity.

David Anderson [drdkanderson@shaw.ca](mailto:drdkanderson@shaw.ca)

## Happenings & Reminders

### Installation Dinner/Dance

The GoF Annual Installation Dinner/Dance will be on **February 12th** at the Maillardville Community Centre, Coquitlam. It will be a Valentines Day theme and is open to our members and guests, as well as members of other chapters. The 2011 Board of Directors will be installed, the 2010 Awards recipients honoured and our own DJ (Doug Affleck) will provide the dance music.

### CD Recordings

Note that GoF is going ahead with recordings for new CDs. **January 8** is for Christmas music. **February 26** is the second session. All singers needed please.

### Valentine's Quartets

The GoF will be back singing valentines this year. **Don & Roxie Giles** have volunteered to take orders and be dispatchers again. **Rod MacLeod** will be managing the quartets so get them together and let him know ASAP. Also, it's a good time over the holidays to start promoting the sale of gigs to friends and neighbours.

### Byron's Thanks

Gentlemen, I want to acknowledge the men who have contributed to the various performances over the past weeks. I think the performances have gone well & our audiences have enjoyed what we have to offer musically. As well, congratulations to **Carl Gung** & his **Show Committee** for their hard work putting on our annual show. A special congrats to **Al Alain** for his great work on the show script.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to be the V.P. Music & Performance over the last year & a half. I have learned much & enjoyed being on the BOD. Please give your incoming V.P. Music & Performance – **George Gregory** the assistance & support needed to ensure another great year for the GOF. I will continue to be of service wherever needed in the Chapter to help the Mighty GOF move onward & upward!!  
In Harmony, Byron Walton, V.P. Music & Performance

### Puns for Educated Minds:

**#2.** I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

### Dilbert's Rules of Order

**#15:** A pat on the back is only a few centimetres from a kick in the butt.

**Comment #124** by Bill Gibbons

"Have you ever tried to teach a lead three measures of music in which he is asked to give up the melody line?"

**Deadline for the next issue is January 18, 2011**

## CALENDAR

### 2010

Dec 21 Chapter visitation/ guest night  
Dec 28 Dark night

### 2011

Jan 8 **CD Recording** Carols  
Jan 14-15 QCED Show, Seaside OR  
Jan 26-29 Midwinter International, Las Vegas  
Feb 12 GoF Valentine Dinner Dance  
Installation/Awards, Coquitlam  
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
Feb 26 **CD Recording**  
Mar 18-19 Division II/Prelims Renton, WA  
April 1-2 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford  
April 22 Easter  
July 3-10 International, Kansas City, MO  
July 22-24 HCNW Tacoma, WA  
July 31 Anacortes Salmon BBQ  
Sept 2-4 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC  
Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane  
Oct 7-9 **District Convention** Spokane, WA  
Oct 10 Thanksgiving

### 2012

Jan 17-22 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ  
July 1-8 International, Portland, OR

### Internationals

2013 Toronto, Ontario  
2014 Las Vegas, Nevada  
2015 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
2016 Nashville, Tennessee  
2017 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
2018 Orlando, Florida  
2019 Salt Lake City, Utah

