

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

**2011 - No.8 – October-November**

## Realtime Honoured at District



On the evening of Saturday October 1, 2011 just prior to the Quartet Finals at the Spokane District Convention, Emcee Bobby Huber introduced the Evergreen Hall Of Fame honourees who proudly paraded on stage in their bright green jackets. A fine and distinguished group.

He then announced that the 2011 Hall of Fame inductees were: **REALTIME**. The auditorium erupted into a cheering standing ovation as **Tim Broersma, John Newell, Tom Metzger** and **Mark Metzger** walked on stage. Here were the 2005 International Champions being recognised by their home District.

Proud Dad **Charlie Metzger** takes up the story: Barbershop has provided a lot of rewarding moments for me. Some of the best were moments of winning chorus, quartet and senior quartet contests. Some others were special awards from the chorus and from the District, although I was not, at first, too crazy about wearing the bright green coat that advertises those who have been inducted into the Evergreen District Hall of Fame.

However, this year, at District, I was very pleased to be wearing it and sharing with my wife **Karen**, and **Doug** and **Judy Broersma**, the privilege of presenting the green to the members of Realtime as they became our new inductees into the Evergreen District Hall of Fame.

It is something very special in my life that my sons and daughter have made life choices around singing that stem to some degree from my involvement in barbershop during the whole of their young lives and to the present. **Donya** was very early a Region 26 quartet champion and

has become a fine director, voice teacher and coach, a career vocal musician. **Tom** and **Mark** joined me in the chorus and the whole family went to Carnegie Hall with Donya as Dorothy in **The Wizard of Oz**. Tom and Mark arranged to form **Counterpoint** which brought both **Marty Lovick** and me a District quartet championship. Tom directed the chorus for some years, and of course they won International gold in 2005 with their Mom and Dad looking on and rejoicing with them. Not long afterward, Realtime sang **The Impossible Dream** with **Antique Gold** on the evening show of our winning the Seniors Quartet Championship in Sacramento in 2006.

It is truly wonderful for me to share Barbershop Love with my family in so many satisfying ways! The presenting of those Green coats is a cherished moment for me and for my family to remember with pride.



[The Editor again]. To the great delight of everyone, and with two more standing ovations, Realtime then sang two songs as contest mic-testers to get the quartet finals rolling. This in spite of John's severe cold!

Bob Thomas' comment: "Can they really be even better than we remember?" I think so.

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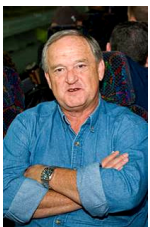
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## District – Spokane 2011

By Paul Peachey



The early morning hours of Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> saw the departure of a bus from New Westminster, loaded to the hilt with members of the GoF, several dependants and some friends from the T-Birds, leaving to compete at District in Spokane WA. Other GoF members and dependants were traveling there in their own vehicles.

The mood on the bus seemed to be one of expectancy and calm determination, knowing that hard work and effort was about to lead to a result that we would all be proud of. The bus ride down saw some heavy duty cribbage being played in the back of the bus. I would say that for the most part the ride down was uneventful, except for the last two hours stuck in traffic just outside Spokane due to a truck crash. On arrival we checked into the excellent HQ hotel, most of us went out for a bite to

eat (maybe a couple of drinks) and then settled in to watch the semi-finals of the quartet contest.



New Westminster Sunrise on Friday (Shanti Ghose)

Breakfast on masse for the chorus next morning at a very nice buffet, back to the hotel, dressing up in our finest, rehearsal room and then our turn on the stage. Over fifty GoF on stage this year and, as one of the judges noted, “we looked like we belonged up there” and I think we sang and performed that way. Vast improvement over last year (both scores and standing) and, as Charlie so eloquently stated...the GoF ensemble is BACK!!

One of the highlights Saturday evening was watching “our” quartet, **Real Time**, be inducted into the Hall of Fame and then absolutely blowing everybody into the next state with a couple of songs that just ripped. The District Quartet final round saw some excellent quartets competing and singing, and then the Show of Champions. After all was said and done, the pressure was off and we all relaxed at the QCED Afterglow and hospitality suites. Some (notably Rod and Sean) relaxed more than others.



Loading up the bus on Sunday morning for the return junket saw **Jim Bates** having to personally retrieve above mentioned Rod and Sean from their rooms so that they could ride home on the bus. Tired, but satisfied, was the feeling on the bus going home (good Bridge game in the back of the bus, and some advice would be...don't play cribbage for money against Charlie).

Arriving back in New Westminster, bus unloaded and “poof”, there we were at home and District 2011 in Spokane was over.

## Some Highlights at District:

### Sean Murch

Being on stage with the GOF  
 Wrestling with Rod at 4:30am  
 Jim Bates saving my butt by getting me on the bus  
 Listening to Realtime  
 Watching NVP perform  
 Listening to the after-after-glow quartets

### Shanti Ghose

The gorgeous sunrise at New West before we started our eventful Bus ride, and the magic moment of "real" Realtime resurrection in their newly minted sustainable green jackets. What an incredible treat for me and others to experience once more, what inspiring Barbershop is all about at the pinnacle of artistry.

### Charlie Metzger

Congratulations! We've successfully reinvented ourselves as a chorus working towards musical artistry. For the most part, our performance in Spokane was sung with a rich ensemble sound with artistry and nuance. We entertained our audience and put ourselves back on the competitive map with a fourth place finish.



**The Squares:**  
 representing Vancouver  
 T-Birds and GoF  
 (l-r) Dan Blackburn,  
 Allen Upward, Sean  
 Huston, Andry Layarda  
 5<sup>th</sup> place quartet

## 2011 District Scores

### Chorus Contest

- |                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Northwest Vocal Project | 82.6% |
| 2. Salem Senate-Aires      | 81.6% |
| 3. Northwest Sound         | 76.9% |
| 4. GoF                     | 73.4% |

### Quartet Contest

- |                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Quadrphonics                     | 78.6% |
| 2. Glee Club Riot                   | 76.1% |
| 3. Code Blue                        | 74.0% |
| 4. Four Chordsmen of the Apocalypse | 67.7% |
| 5. The Squares                      | 67.3% |

Seniors Quartet Champ & District Rep to Midwinter International – Time After Time.



October-November 2011

## Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

### 40 years ago this month (1971)

In October the Lower Mainland chapters hosted the District Contest as a joint venture. The committee, chaired by **Ted McAlpine** (who went on to become the Ontario District president), and made up of six men from each chapter, did a bang up job of running the event. We placed sixth, our best placing to that date. On October 30 a very successful Halloween party was held with many prizes donated by members. The prize list goes on for almost a full column in the *Reflections*.

### 30 years ago this month (1981)

Once again the District Convention was held in the Vancouver area and hosted by four chapters. Joint chairmen **Tucker Goodwin** and **Chester Colpitts** did a great job creating the headline *Best in the West*, in the chapter bulletin which was edited by **Jack Faust**. The **Portland Chapter** won the contest, but were unable to go to International as their director was transferred out of town, giving the honour of competing in Pittsburgh in 1982 to the second place chorus - *Gentlemen of Fortune*. Now the work was to begin. You'll hear more about the preparations and the trip in following issues.

### 20 years ago this month (1991)

In a very nicely written article **Byron Walton** describes with pleasure two membership drive events held at the Coquitlam Centre where the small chorus, consisting of 13 members, showed up to sing. Membership chairman **Jim Gibson** had spent Friday evening and all day Saturday setting up a barbershop display table including recorded music and photos of chapter quartets. They also sold some show tickets and some records. Later in the article Byron shows his disappointment with the chorus of 90 members and 60+ performers for having a poor turnout on Saturday

## 2012 Board of Directors

By Peter Lissett

In accordance with the Barbershop Harmony Society's guidelines, the election of the new board of directors took place on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 2011. The nominating committee had presented the following nominations prior to the meeting:-

President -	To be confirmed
VP Music and Performance -	George Gregory
VP Chapter Development -	Carl Gung
VP PR and Marketing -	Ed Arnold
Honourary Treasurer -	Rich Clark & Gary Korstrom
Honourary Secretary -	Al Alain
Members-at-Large -	Sean Murch and Shanti Ghose

With no other nominations the gentlemen were elected by acclamation. Doug Affleck serves as Past President next year. Congratulations and thanks to the new board members with best wishes for a successful year. Gary Korstrom will be treasurer while Rich Clark is away.



George Gregory



Carl Gung

President TBA



Ed Arnold



Al Alain



Rich Clark



Sean Murch



Shanti Ghose



Doug Affleck

## Board Activities



**By Al Alain**

The board has been very busy over the summer. Here is a summary of the activities, issues and decisions made.

**Treasurer Rich Clark** has kept the board aware of the financial conditions of the chorus. The receipts

have been stable in spite of lower than expected sing outs. Our expenses are also lower than expected because of delays in CD recording, Director expenses not expended, and other expenses delayed or cancelled.

Membership is growing as **Secretary Al Alain** reported with BHS records showing 68 members. Currently eight members are not active.

**VP Music George Gregory** has one of the busiest portfolios with the issue of qualification standards being addressed in early summer. Then the Christmas Show was launched and **Carl Gung** and **Peter Lissett**, co-chairs, reported that the show was advancing well. This year's show is in a changed venue and changed date. "**A Contrary Christmas!**" will be presented in the James Cowan Theatre in Burnaby on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Producer **Al Alain** has completed the first draft of the script, "**Soundscape**" will be the guest performers, and it looks like the ticket prices will be \$25 for the evening show and \$20 for matinee and seniors/children.

District contest arrangements were completed as required with a bus arranged for transport to Spokane.

**VP Chapter Development Carl Gung** will be looking to get more sing outs at Malls to help reach potential new members. **Sean Murch** is also assisting in trying to grow our membership by contacting music schools, teachers and voice coaches to make them aware of GOF and barbershop.

**VP Marketing Ed Arnold** is trying to get more paid sing outs and is still looking forward to good leads from the chorus members. Our pre-Christmas performances are fewer than normal but we will be performing at Fleetwood and Lougheed Mall. Como Lake show has been moved to some time in the New Year.

A committee has been set up to do a financial review and analysis of the Chapter. A report is expected in February or sooner. George Gregory reported that **Travis Gamble** has accepted the role of Singing Valentine coordinator.

Finally **Gordon Ross** has advised that the planned Cabaret is going well with **Rob Hood** and **Elie Savoie**, show producers, excited with the developments. The Cabaret will be held at Lake City Studios June 2012 and it will be a Variety Show. More information will be forthcoming. The venue alone is exciting!

## Charity Begins at Home

**"Charity Begins At Home"**. The proverb dates back to Roman poet Terence c.160 BC. Sir Thomas Browne's comment in 1642: "*But how shall we expect charity towards others, when we are uncharitable to ourselves? Charity begins at home.*" The Muslim Sunnah (c. 800): "*A man's first charity should be to his own family, if poor.*" Wikipedia explains it: "*You should take care of family and people close to you before you worry about helping others.*" The GoF is our 'Barbershop Family' isn't it? We are close to each other aren't we? And poor?

The GoF is struggling financially to operate the way we must to become an "A" level chorus. Expenses have

been greater than income ever since we lost the gaming grants. In spite of valiant efforts at shows, singouts, sales and conventions we are still limping along. What to do?

How many of us have forgotten, or didn't know, that the Greater Vancouver Chapter is a **Registered Charity**? That means that any donations to the chapter are tax deductible. Not only those from outside parties, but also from **the membership**.

**Treasurer Rich Clark** says: "There seems to be a perception of limited tax value to the donor for a donation to the GoF's coffers. However, there is a **significant tax benefit** to be received from these donations. The big bonus comes on total donation amounts in excess of \$200 for the year (i.e. your total donations to all charities). You can also save them up over 5 years if you want to get a bigger deduction. The tax refund generated on \$500 of donations for the year is \$171.22 (for \$750 it is \$280.47). Here's how:

Federal - \$200 - 15% = \$30	BC - \$200 - 5.06% = \$10.12
- \$300 - 29% = \$87	- \$500 - 14.7% = \$44.10
Total	\$117
Grand Total Refund	<u>\$171.22</u>

Assuming that an individual made various contributions of at least \$200 before considering the GOF, then any contribution to the GOF generates a 43.7% refund."

So, here is a way for each of us to contribute to the well-being of the GoF **and** get a tax refund. How about it? [Thanks to Rich Clark for the calculation]

## Happenings & Reminders

### Extra Christmas Songs Rehearsal

Instead of recording, there will be an extra rehearsal on **Saturday October 29**, at Mt Seymour United Church from 9:00am to 12:00 noon to bring the Christmas songs up to speed. This is not just "words 'n notes" but for ensemble singing so **everybody needs to be there**. The songs are: Here We Come a-Wassailing, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Secret of Christmas, and The First Noel.

### Christmas CD Recordings

The Christmas recordings will be done on **Saturday November 12** at Mt Seymour United 9:00am to noon.

### Random & Visiting Quartets

The most recent quartets (chosen by Charlie) to entertain us at break were: **4 Gauge Shot:** (Gary Korstrom, Al Alain, Gar Disher, Ezra Parker) with "Jeanie";

**Promissory Notes:** (Shoji Whittier, George Gregory, George Metzger, Dave Meehan) with "Only You"; **The Ventures:** (Arthur Loyie, George Wakeham, Dave Whittier, Gordon Ross) with "The

Secret of Christmas"; **The Singing Santas:** (Bill Martin, Gerry Borden, Jim Bates, David Jones) with "Jingle-Bell Rock"; **Journeyman Elves:** (Clarence Stad, Jim Lohnes, Ed Arnold, Gordon Ross) with "The Secret of Christmas".

**Comment #159** by Bill Gibbons

"Why are barbershop show intermissions limited to 20 minutes? So they don't have to retrain the bass section."

The **next issue** of the *FortuneTeller* will not be until after the Christmas Shows and Holiday.

**Deadline for the next issue is December 27, 2011**

## CALENDAR

### 2011

Oct 29 **Rehearsal**, N Vancouver  
 Nov 12 **CD Recording**, N Vancouver  
 Nov 26 **50/50 Show**, Fleetwood Surrey  
 Dec 11 **Singout** Lougheed Mall  
 Dec 16 **Show Rehearsal** Cowan Theatre  
 Dec 17 **Christmas Shows** Cowan Theatre  
 Dec 27 Dark Night

### 2012

Jan 17-22 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ  
 Jan 20-21 QCED Show, Seaside, OR  
 Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
 Feb tba GoF Awards & Installation Dinner  
 Mar 30/31 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford  
 April 6 Easter  
 April 27-28 Division II/Prelims, Bellevue  
 June tba **GoF Cabaret**  
 July 1-8 International, Portland, OR  
 Jul 20-22 HCNW, Tacoma, WA  
 Sept/Oct **District Convention** TBA  
 Oct 30-Nov 3 SAI International, Denver CO

### 2013

Jun 30-Jul 7 International, Toronto, ON  
 Oct 11-13 **District Convention** Boise, ID

## When Insults Had Class

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

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." – Groucho Marx

