



# 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"**

December 2008

## Christmas Memories



By George Gregory

It was that time of year again! The Mighty GoF's Christmas shows went off without a hitch on December 6 this year. The weather behaved much better than last year; this year, the day was entirely blizzard-free, although raining hard. At the time of writing, the numbers were not in, but we are expecting that the show will turn a small profit.

Charlie reported that several people told him that the chorus had never sounded as good as we did this year. Charlie also reported that he hears that several times every year. However, (in my view anyway), the 2008 enthusiasts were right.

Armed with our new 'Roycean' sound, the chorus presented a more unified and resonant Christmas performance than it ever has (at least during this singer's history with the chorus). For the uninitiated, in our three-day retreat last September, the chorus hired Royce Ferguson as a coach. Royce is a triple threat International Gold Medalist, having won international gold for his performances in a quartet, a chorus and as a chorus director. In the September retreat, he started the chorus on a new path of producing sound in a much freer way. Thanks to an unprecedented buy-in by the chorus, great leadership by Charlie, the section leaders, etc., we have retained a huge part of Royce's offerings and are continuing to climb the Roycean harmonic ladder.

We had two guest acts on the show this year. Our first guest was **MOJO**, the quartet that placed 6<sup>th</sup> at both the 2007 and 2008 Sweet Adeline Internationals. As one would expect from a quartet with those credentials, they



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dazzled. Rounding out our guests – and also on the distaff side – was the **BC Girls Choir**. The girls that graced the Terry Fox stage ranged in age from kindergarten to late teens. They enlivened the stage with their youthful enthusiasm, and were a great hit with the audience.



The only downbeat was the poor attendance at the afterglow. Perhaps there were fewer people this year than last because last year the weather was so bad and chorus members felt they couldn't face the roads without having a couple of drinks.

**Xmas 2008**  
By Bob Moller

Well another year gone by and time again for the GOF Christmas Show. Keena and I really enjoyed the "memories" and it brought back some of our favourite times. It felt a little strange not being on the risers but I was able to hum along with most of the songs as they all came back to me. I was really proud of you guys in the second half, dressed in the show uniforms and with those medals around your necks. It must have been a very special time in Hawaii, congratulations to you all. Well again it was a great show, kudos to Ray and his crew for another great job. Thanks to all of you for your good wishes. Merry Xmas to all.



**Christmas Memories**  
From Shanti Ghose

Audience Feedback: Voted most enjoyable by my guests noting how they loved the "Christmas Songs" content in our show. Personal "memories" from our members to introduce each song was a big hit that had visibly moved my Dutch co-worker, who came to the show with his girlfriend and his old Dad. They were amazed when I

told them even the GoF members were not aware of these intimate stories until told at the show. My friend was intrigued with the "longest and smoothest" memory delivered by **Ian McGillivray** relating the story of the family of Dutch immigrants who came to Canada after the war. He asked me to confirm if the narrator was the "oldest son" in the story. I was in a bind and didn't know how to respond. I did not want to shatter any illusion created in his mind by telling him that the narrator had a very un-Dutch last name of McGillivray, and simply replied that he could be right considering all of the memories were "personal". [Ian says the "oldest son" was his wife Rita's brother. Ed.]

**Members' Memories**

This year Show Chairman **Carl Gung** and Producer **Al Alain** decided that, rather than having a scripted skit, they would tap into the chorus members' Christmas memories to introduce carols and songs. In addition to Emcee **Ray Fallan**, nine chorus members enthralled the audience with memories which spanned the ages from child to senior, eras from post WW II to the 1990's, and the globe from Afghanistan to South Africa. All were well received. Those sharing their stories were: **Tucker Goodwin, Dave Whittier, Al Alain, Peter Lissett, Ray Fallan, Harry Gray, Carl Gung, Ian McGillivray, Ed Arnold** and **Byron Walton**.

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## Rick's Notes - The Year in Review

By Rick Morrison - Music & Performance VP



Looking back on what we accomplished this year is truly amazing. Our Music Leadership Team was re-organized to provide assistance to Charlie and the chorus members. **Bob Moller** and **Rod MacLeod** stepped in to run the Valentines Day performances. We attended the Division Contest in Abbotsford with good results that

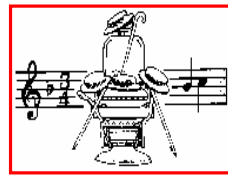
verified our singing is improving. We also introduced a new Music Distribution System to become compliant with Copyright laws. **Jim Bates** controls all music that is now distributed to chorus members. **Gord Ross** produced an incredibly successful Spring Show. **Ray Fallan** took on the job to find a new chorus uniform and is now distributing these outfits to the chorus members. This has been a six month project for Ray and it's not over yet. Our summer months were filled with our Bootstrap Program providing instruction from several GOF members. **Ian McGillivray** and **Rod MacLeod** organized and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summer BBQ in the rain. In September, we found ourselves once again at the Squamish Retreat with the amazing **Royce Ferguson** providing invaluable coaching.

We missed the District Contest for the first time in many, many years however, that was due to **Moe Jones** chairing and organizing the chorus traveling to Hawaii to participate in the Pan Pacific Convention where we earned a very respectable third place (and bronze medal). Last but not least, **Carl Gung** produced a successful annual Christmas Show without a hitch. Let's not forget the guys who make the regular Tuesday evening program run smoothly - **Jim Bates & Ray Fallan**. Last but not least, I wish to thank **Charlie** for providing a great music program week to week and for bringing the best coaches available to our retreats.

Without these men stepping forward to produce and manage these programs and shows, this chorus would not be able to survive. Each of them successfully managed a team and that list of men is too long for me to include here.

It's been a pleasure serving as your Music VP for the past 12 months. Many of you have provided suggestions on how to improve our processes on Tuesday night or performances and I welcome each and every suggestion. I'm glad there are so many of you that care as much as I do. I look forward to what we can accomplish in 2009. We have new uniforms that I'm excited to show off at Division in Vernon, March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. One

thought is to produce a CD this year. Then it's off to host District at Whistler October 31<sup>st</sup>. Sing daily, Sing for fun. Rick



December 2008  
**Down**  
**Memory Lane**  
By Ross Hood

### 40 years ago this month (1968)

We were going to start the year, or 1969, with more than a 50 man chorus reported President **By Gordon**. At the Big Wheel, held by Bellingham Toppers Chorus, the winning quartet, **The 1492 Rampart Streeters**, consisted of **Don West, George Cotton, Al Hayward** and **Jack Sargent** - all Vancouver Chorus members and all unfortunately no longer with us. Evergreen's first HEP school (COTS) was announced to be held in Bellingham. A quartet clinic was scheduled for the Snoqualmie Summit - my quartet attended and rang a chord for the first time.

### 30 years ago (1978)

**Jack Faust** had agreed to take over as *Bulletin Editor* for 1979 after another series of editing by **Alex Hood**. The Fall Show, featuring **The Four Cheers** from Portland area, was reported as most successful with a sold out house. The Hobo outfits were officially retired and the search was on for new ideas. **Tucker Goodwin**, as area councillor, installed the executive for '79 consisting of President **Harry Magee** & Program VP **George Metzger**. Retiring President **Bob O'Shaughnessy** reported on the past year's progress. A hearty ovation was accorded Bob after a 2 year run.

### 20 years ago (1988)

**Elie Savoie's** theme for the fall show was "*Barbershop in Motion*" where the chorus formed various forms of transportation (an automobile, a plane, etc) to correspond with the songs "*In My Merry Oldsmobile*" and "*Come Josephine in My Flying Machine*". We had a busy weekend from December 9 - 11 where on Friday and Saturday we sung on the Carol Ship; on Saturday we performed at the Coquitlam Centre AFA; and then went to the Port Coquitlam Legion where we collected \$60 for Logopedics. On Sunday we repeated the "*Cinderella*" skit, written by **Rob Hood** and **Charlie Metzger** for Harmony Hollow, for the Brookwood Seniors. Then of course Monday was the regular meeting.



## GOF'ers at Master Director Class

By Jeremy Wong

The weekend of November 14-16 saw **Royce Ferguson** leading a directors' workshop in Portland, OR. A contingent from our own ranks and MLT, consisting of **Charlie and Donya Metzger, Alex Leung, Andry Layarda, Nick Tinney, Sean Huston** and myself was in



attendance to try to further grok the fundamentals of our new ideal sound.

The weekend went much like our fall retreat, with hours spent on sound production with *Heart of My Heart* and

individual attention given as Royce saw fit. As it was a directors' workshop, there was also time spent with the directors in attendance in front. Kudos to Andry, Sean, Charlie, and Donya - they each were able to put Royce's advice into practice right away with great success. The highlight of the weekend for me personally was my quartet, **West Coast Fusion**, getting an hour of coaching with Royce. I discovered just how intense the "vigor" that Royce so often refers to actually is, and I assure you it is WAY more intense than I had previously thought. The concept of getting uncomfortable and "bringing it" every single time is one of the main things that I'm working on personally, and one we would all do well to devote a few of the little grey cells to. A few sayings to help convey this concept: Growth only occurs when you're outside of your comfort zone, and what's not growing is dieing.

So gentlemen - Let's get uncomfortable!!

## **Happenings & Reminders**

### November 29<sup>th</sup> St Mary's Show

On Saturday November 29<sup>th</sup> the chorus gathered for the third year at St Mary's Church on Joyce Street in Vancouver for a 50/50 Christmas Show. It bucketed rain all morning but eased up in the afternoon to just light drizzle or "scotch mist". Nevertheless, most of us were there by 4.00pm for rehearsal until 6.00 when we adjourned to get some supper. Unfortunately we had to vacate the church basement hall - there was to be a service - and move to the rectory next door where we used 3 small rooms for getting dressed. A short walk (outside in the mist) to the sanctuary and we were ready to go. The 2 hour show included standard repertoire, contest songs, Christmas Show, Antique Gold and audience sing-a-longs. Charlie summed it up well: "The audience graced us with a standing ovation and many

enthusiastic comments and thank you statements. I'm glad they seemed satisfied. There were certainly elements of the show that were well done."

### December 7<sup>th</sup> Lougheed Mall Singout

On the afternoon of Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> the chorus braved the rain going to the Lougheed Mall to sing for the Christmas shoppers. We were given a room for warm up and Charlie was concerned as the only tenors to balance the basses were **Taro and Shoji**; a sigh of relief when **Clarence Stad** and **Allan Pinvidic** arrived to support them. Risers had been set up outside London Drugs and we sang through a 45 minute Christmas repertoire to a constantly changing, though very appreciative, audience of shoppers.

### December 14<sup>th</sup> Como Lake United Show

On Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> we all woke to snow, wind and biting cold. There was some apprehension as to whether the 50/50 Show for the Como Lake United Church would go ahead as planned. From sunny Tsawwassen **Rick Morrison** expressed misgivings but sing out organiser **Ed Arnold** assured us that there wasn't enough snow in Coquitlam to make a snowball. He was right, although there was quite a bit in some areas. The audience enjoyed **Antique Gold** singing and the Christmas Memory stories that introduced the carols.



### December 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Memorial Services

On Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> the chorus attended **Ernie Kroeger's** Memorial Service at St Luke Lutheran Church in Surrey. We were joined by past GoF Gospel chorus members in singing *The Lord's Prayer*. On Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> the chorus sang *The Lords Prayer* and *Irish Blessing* at **Bob O'Shaughnessy's** Memorial Service at Ryerson United in Vancouver.

### 2009 Secretary & Treasurer

**Ian McGillivray**, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced that the 2009 Chapter Board is now at full strength with **Gord Ross** taking on the **Treasurer** responsibilities and **David Jones** filling the **Secretary** position.

## Obituaries



### **KROEGER Ernie** 1921 - 2008

Ernie Kroeger passed away peacefully on December 3, 2008. He is survived by Vera, his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, and by his daughter Faith and sons Jonathon, Steve, Mark, and Douglas and seventeen grandchildren.

### **Ernie Remembered**

By Charlie Metzger

Ernie was for a long while a Pastor at our church, having retired from a congregation in North Delta. He loved to sing and had a wonderfully resonant bass/baritone voice. He was a member of our church choir and I invited him to join the chorus. He sang lead in the GoF and in the GoF Gospel Chorus and really enjoyed his participation with everyone. He was a gentle man and a real giver, always ready with a word of encouragement for those around him. Perhaps he offered you a pen, an address book, or a key chain printed or inscribed with his name and contact information. He was always a go-to guy for those in need and he wanted to make sure he was available to you.

In his later years he enjoyed being a movie extra, mostly just for the opportunity to meet people and befriend them. One of our members, Gary Korstrom, was invited by Ernie to come along and join him, which he did.

Ernie and his wife, Vera, had six children, and a passel of grandchildren. He was close to them all and much loved by all who knew him.

When serving British Intelligence during World War II, Ernie was looking for a fellow officer and gave a gentle boot to a pair of pant legs sticking out from under a Jeep which had broken down. The owner of the legs turned out to be an Officer who objected strenuously to the cavalier treatment. She was Elizabeth, the heir to the throne. Perhaps he was more circumspect after that!



## **O'SHAUGHNESSY Robert F (Bob)**

1933 - 2008



Bob O'Shaughnessy passed away peacefully at his home on Galiano Island on Friday morning December 12, 2008. He is survived by his wife Collette, daughters Patty and Lynda, son Neave and five grandchildren.

### **Bob Remembered**

By Moe Jones

Bob was diagnosed several months ago with lymphoma cancer which spread very quickly to the point where he was advised by his doctors, in mid November, that they could not do anything further. Bob was born and raised in Nanaimo. He graduated from UBC with a degree in Engineering in 1955, and worked in the petroleum industry in Vancouver for many years.

Bob was a force in the GOF in the 70's and 80's. He was President in 1977 and 1978. He was the one who built the GOF membership to make the chapter the premier chorus in the lower mainland. Bob sang tenor in the chorus and in several quartets with Charlie Metzger, George Metzger, George Meehan, Laurence Spencer, Tom Bates, Tucker Goodwin, Ed Arnold, and Moe Jones. His quartet the "**Jim Dandies**" placed as high as 4<sup>th</sup> in District competition. He loved to sing "*Hello Mary Lou*" and took every opportunity to find young ladies with that name. If he couldn't find a Mary Lou, he would merely suggest to the nearest lady that her name was Mary Lou for the next 3 minutes while the quartet serenaded her. Being Irish, he also loved to sing "*The Irish Blessing*".

Bob started his singing hobby in high school where he sang in a quartet. He also sang in a fraternity quartet at university. He appeared in several productions with the Greater Vancouver Operatic Society and one of his barbershop highlights was performing with the GVOS in the "Music Man" quartet.

Bob has stated many times that he has had a wonderful life with family, career and music.



## EVERYDAY LAWS

### Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy:

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

### Membership Dues News

By Don Rush, GOF Secretary/Treasurer

Membership dues are no longer billed on a quarterly basis by Nashville. In order to expedite the processing of membership renewals, Nashville requests that the renewal notices **mailed** to members be returned by said members in support of their dues payments. Since the renewal notices do not include an amount for chapter dues (currently \$75 annually), **you may continue to pay your total dues to the GOF**, and the GOF will forward the Society and District dues to Nashville on your behalf.

Accordingly, our chapter is modifying the collection of members' dues slightly. While we may remind members to pay their dues, **the onus is on each member to pay their dues on time**. Too many members in the past have been delinquent in paying their dues in a timely manner. In future, if you do not pay your dues on time, please add the Nashville \$3.00 US late payment fee to your billed dues. The dues were increased by Nashville this quarter by \$7.00 US, and the quarterly exchange rate was set at a premium of 15.11%. While Nashville sets up the US dues figures on their website about 45 days in advance of the dues renewal date, the billings mailed out are not received by our members until closer to about three weeks before the renewal date.

As of January 1, 2009, there is no longer a student classification. However, anyone under age 26 will be billed at the former lower rate student rate.

### Dressing Room Dudes



*Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy  
New Year*

**Comment #56** by Bill Gibbons

"Their logic escapes me. They tell me to take "big steps" going up the scale and "small steps" coming down the scale. I tried it in the key of C. I ended up in the key of G."

**Deadline for the next issue is January 13, 2009**

## CALENDAR

### 2008

Dec 23 & 30 **Dark nights**

### 2009

Jan 16-17 QCED Show Seaside, OR  
Jan 29-31 Midwinter, Pasadena, CA  
Feb 7 GoF Awards & Installation Banquet  
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
Mar 27-28 **Division I Convention** Vernon, BC  
April 10 Easter  
May 8-9 Prelims/Div IV, Portland, OR  
May 12 BC Election Day  
May 18 Victoria Day  
June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA  
July 18-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA  
July 26 Anacortes Salmon BBQ  
Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC  
Sept 7 Labour Day  
Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale, BC  
Oct 12 Thanksgiving  
Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC  
Dec **Christmas Show**

### 2010

Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics  
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics



Show Photos by Carl Gung

