



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 WORLD-CLASS BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"

February 2008

Snow & Recordings

Snow and poor driving conditions forced cancellation of the January 29th rehearsal. This created some angst for **Director Charlie** who had to endure a second week without his chorus fix (he was at Midwinter the week before). Charlie was also worried about our preparation for the planned recordings on February 5th for our entry into the CBC Choral 2008 Choral Competition.



CHORAL 2008 is Canada's largest and longest running choral competition. First launched in 1974, the biennial CBC Choral Competition was created to foster the continuing development of amateur choral singing in Canada and to provide a national stage for the very best of Canadian choirs and choral performances across the land. All selections must be unaccompanied; failure to observe this requirement will result in disqualification. Each audition tape must include FOUR separate and contrasting works whose total time must not exceed 18 minutes.

This year a Special Category was added: **Barbershop Choruses**. "Open to all Barbershop Choruses (women or men) with a minimum of 16 singers. The selections performed will be judged on the suitability of the song and arrangement to the Barbershop style and the chorus' musicianship in bringing the song and arrangement to life."

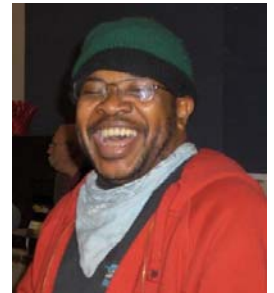
By all accounts Charlie was not disappointed with the performances for the recordings and kudos go to **Allan Pinvidic** who made them. **Bill Martin** says that he has heard that **Lionsgate** SAI chorus are entering too. Should make it interesting.

Guests

The February 5th Rehearsal was memorable for more than just the recording of four songs for the CBC Choral 2008 competition. While that took up most of the evening, we had an audience of guests and returning members who warmed up with us and joined us again on the risers to learn our new songs.

Guests were: (top) **Bennett Chester** (**Marty Lovick's** friend); (middle) **John Riley** (**Grandpa George M's** friend); and (bottom) **Tate Clarke** who had heard of our quality singing and came to investigate.

Returning members we are glad to welcome back include **Mac Matheson**, **Bill Kowk** and **LeRoy Pattison**. Charlie said it was gratifying to see the increased numbers on the risers.



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EVERYDAY LAWS

Law of Probability:

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

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2007 Awards Nominees

Here are the Greater Vancouver Chapter 2007 Award Nominees, in alphabetical order (by first name), showing the award for which they were nominated. Ballot vote was Tuesday February 5th with the presentations to be made at the Awards and Installation Banquet, **February 23rd**.



Barbershop Woman of the Year (BWOTY)

Carol Watson – Bill Lake's significant other. Helps drive judges to contests and assists with ticket sales at afterglows and other events.

Dorothy Fallan – Unfailingly ensures our makeup is properly applied before all contests. Gracious host for meetings and parties. Puts up with Ray's props and garage sales.

Yvonne Martin - Helps Bill in all CD sales and assists at shows and conventions.

Rita McGillivray – Enthusiastic supporter at every event

Barbershop Fellowship Award (BFA)

Andry Layarda – Smiling face up front, always positively encouraging us to perform plus continues to help the tenors and baritones where needed.

Arthur Loyie – The first and cheeriest contact for everyone who attends a rehearsal for the first time. Always enthusiastic and positive.

Bill Martin – Works for a promising future in supporting and promoting Youth in Harmony.

Ed Arnold – Cheerful and friendly – represents the chorus to potential markets and promotes singouts wherever he can.

Jim Bates - Works tirelessly behind the scenes, including learning CD's and tapes, opens and closes rehearsal hall, phone and email contact, front row, runs afterglows.

Moe Jones – Never fails to cheerfully greet everyone he meets and obviously cares about each member of the GOF.

Ray Fallan – Acts as our house leader, ensuring we are attentive, on time and where we need to be. Keeps a sense of humour and patience most of the time.

Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)

Arthur Loyie – Models our enjoyment of this hobby both in his service and in his singing..

Bill Martin – Continued and enthusiastic work with Youth in Harmony

Ed Arnold - Has done a great job as our sing out guy. Ed's hard work has paid off in an increased number of singouts last year.

Jim Bates - Works tirelessly behind the scenes, including learning CD's and tapes, opens and closes rehearsal hall, phone and email contact, front row, runs afterglows.

Ray Fallan - He does an excellent job as chorus manager and MC. Riser and Trailer Man. He has a good attitude and very willing to take on tasks. Set designer/builder

Spring Cabaret - Showtime

A Tribute to the Music of the Silver Screen

The Spring Cabaret is just 4 months away! We are all learning our music and it's going to be a great show with great songs! All our committees are working hard in the background to make this an awesome evening. However, we need each and every chorus member to step up and get involved. The two most critical items at this time are ticket sales and donations to the silent auction. We need every member out there promoting the show to their friends and getting donations for the auction. Now is the time for action, guys!

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 14th

Venue: Hellenic Community Centre, 4500 Arbutus St.

This is the same location where we had our very successful Sinatra Cabaret in 2003. We are even using the same decorator as last time so those of you who attended will remember how classy the hall looked. When you entered you felt like you had stepped into a 1940's nightclub. This event will have the same classy feel so let your friends who attended in 2003 know that they will be in for a similar type of evening.

Event: The theme for the evening will be **A Night at the Movies**. The entire evening will be run as a movie gala/grand opening night. Guests will be asked to arrive (and dress) as if they are attending such an event and everything about the evening will be consistent with this theme. Accordingly, songs selected for the show are well known movie hits dating back to the 1930's. The name of our show is "*Showtime – A Tribute to the Music of the Silver Screen*". We are also thinking of having a live band playing big band music for dancing later in the evening.

Promotion: In addition to other promotional events as the show gets nearer, we are starting with promo cards for Valentines quartets to hand out at all of their gigs. However, the best promotion we can get is each chorus member talking it up with their family and friends.

Ticket Sales: We are planning for an audience of 400 (we had 490 in 2003). There will be 40 tables of 10 people each. I challenge each member to take on the responsibility of selling one table. If we are able to do this, we will have a sell out.

Silent Auction: The ticket price basically covers all our costs (food, show production, promotion, hall rental and decorations, etc). Our profit is determined by the silent auction. In 2003 we had some wonderful contributors and netted over \$11,000. While it would be very optimistic to think we could match that total, we should all be out there looking for donations. Don Frost is in charge of the auction so please pass on any information to him. On November 1st, Don sent out an **Auction Items Information Sheet**. This is the form you need to fill out with the details of donation items. So far there has been very little response to this. Please look back at this email, print it off and start soliciting donations.

Gord Ross
Show Chairman



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

40 years ago this month (1968)

The rules of the Big Wheel 40 years ago meant that the chapter that the winners belonged to was to take on the hosting of it in the next quarter. In Feb/68 the **Half Hearted Four**, from our chapter, consisting of **Abie Klassen, Gerry Staton, Ben Fast and Len Redakop** took the top award. In his monthly article our President **By Gordon** mentioned that in the last year we got new uniforms, new name, and new digs.

30 years ago (1978)

Auditions for Admission came off very well with twelve prospective members. **Rob Hood** wrote a welcome song that was arranged by brother **Ross**. The chorus started to learn it, but it didn't seem to take for a lot of the members. I still like it (but I guess I'm slightly biased). It was at the competition in '78 that we took on the name of "**THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE**". Our previous name was **The Lake City Chorus**. We were at that time looking for Tramp uniforms. (Sound familiar?)

20 years ago (1988)

Wayne Tamkin was doing a fine job of producing the **Fortune Teller**. A survey was held to find out which songs should be dropped and which to keep. None of the songs on the 1988 repertoire are being sung now by any quartets or choruses that I know of. There was a cut-out listing all the songs in the repertoire for members to keep in their pockets.

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



Our first board meeting of the year was held on **January 21st**. It was one of the longer ones! However, after the best part of three and a half hours, we had the budget more or less nailed, nay, hammered down.

Our expenses were carefully scrutinized and some line items were trimmed according to this year's expectations. Our difficulties, as ever, are with income. Your directors may have been a tad cautious when estimating income from performances in 2008. Nonetheless, we would still be in deficit had they been

more optimistic. Thus, in order to keep the gap between income and expenses smaller, it was deemed necessary to raise the annual chapter dues by \$20 to \$75.

According to a very old member, it is the first time the chapter dues have been increased in living memory! So be it! Each member who attends our Retreat in the fall is subsidized to the tune of 50% of actual costs, so right there you have a bargain. We did reduce the subsidy for the Installation/Awards Dinner this year though.

Your contribution is to fully support all our paid singouts, Valentines Day and our Spring Show this year. This means both showing up at each event and letting all your family, friends and acquaintances know about them and doing any other marketing endeavours that you can think of – distributing flyers, for example.

Next year we will be hosting the Evergreen District Convention in Whistler. This will require a huge amount of effort from everybody, but the rewards to the chapter's bottom line will make it all well worth while.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 12th. Hopefully, it will be a tick shorter!

Letter from Oz: The Great Adventure - Part 2 By Dave Ellis 31st January, '08

Greetings once again from sunny Melbourne (sorry Eddie, but it just *is*), and a belated Happy New Year to you and yours, as I missed the deadline for the last Fortune Teller. So to barbershop news from here:



I have begun to sing in earnest with the **Melbourneaires** which, somewhat surprisingly for such a cultural city, is the only men's barbershop chorus in the city. As of my last missive I had been to just one rehearsal, and then the chorus broke for a 5-week hiatus for Christmas! But Shirley and I had an invitation to attend their End-of-Year Dinner. It was lots of fun, very well attended, and we sat at the President's table. Placed opposite us was a delightful lady from one of the two women's choruses here and, upon finding out that we were from lands afar and newly-arrived, she invited us to spend Christmas Day with her and her family; furthermore, she invited us to stay the night so that they need not limit their hospitality to the departure of the last train. Now *that's* barbershop kindness.

On the Big Day we were taken in and treated like members of their family, about a dozen of all ages. It was a warm day as usual here in the summertime, but the food was much the same as at home: roast turkey and Christmas pud, and all the good stuff that goes with that, and all day long. Lots of fun and we were most fortunate to have met such welcoming people. (I think if we hadn't Shirley and I would have just "bunged some shrimps on the barbie" on our balcony and maybe gone for a swim, as the beach is only 75m from our door.)

And out of all that we received an invitation to 'go bush' this weekend, so we are off with another couple to a bush-cabin for a 3 day stay on the banks of the mighty Murray River; this is several hours drive East and I've driven over it before but never had time to explore. As long as we survive all the native nasties that might bite, sting, maim or kill innocent visitors from the north, I should be able to write you one last bulletin before we get back in April. But I digress ... back to barbershop:



The **Melbourneaires** are usually about 40ish on the risers, a bit less right now as it's still summer holiday season here. I haven't spent one minute sitting in the chairs, as the Director invited me up onto the risers on the first night. I find it's best just to get in amongst the Bassos and read, lean and learn! **Ian Lushey**, the MD, uses a mike and an electric keyboard each week which are pretty effective; he is most knowledgeable musically and has just been re-appointed for another year. Luckily they're introducing several new songs right now: '*Basin Street Blues*' and '*Georgia on my Mind*'. Several of their existing songs I know, not directly but vaguely by barbershop osmosis over the years e.g. *Masquerade*, and this helps me to catch up a bit too. Last week we had a pretty good Teaching Quartet doing 4+1+1, so the learning methodology is up to date.

One really great item is their risers. They were designed and built by some talented guys in the chorus. They're 7 sets x 4 rows high, but each section is a little shorter than ours, and all top risers have backs with their name and logo on - nice. The riser steps are wood-framed and nicely carpeted; and the beautifully-made and stained plywood riser bases are cunningly slotted together, 3 per section. This means that no piece of the jigsaw is much longer than 1.5m (that's 5ft 'Murrican). Everything is numbered by section and they're so easy and light to set

up and undo that many guys can help. And to top it off they have custom-made a metal cart (pictured) into which everything slots precisely. It runs on big rubber-tired castors to be easily wheeled away into the storage at the end of the evening, or winched into a trailer for performances.



One bad habit that I have fallen into over my 21-odd barbershop years is that of walking into a room—full of barbershoppers I don't know, and who sing music I don't know either! First as a wide-eyed newbie, to the **GOF** in '86; then I joined the **Banana Blenders** in Queensland in '89; on my return to Canada and the **GOF** I switched from Lead to Bass. In the early '90s I worked in Oz for 3 years and re-joined the **BBs** again, this time as a Basso; then back to the **GOF** with its totally new repertoire. So, upon de-camping to Melbourne these winter months I just had to join the **Melbourneaires** and start all over again. Come April I'll be desperately trying to play catch-up yet *again*, so please bear with me. Throughout this musical trauma I met lots of great barbershop people in interesting places, and learned lots of music I would never have otherwise seen. Benefits outweigh difficulties - but I really *must* stop doing this!!

On a completely different topic, I have been asked by the President of the Melbourneaires, **Roger Archman**, to be a guest on his monthly 1-hour Barbershop radio programme next Wednesday. So I expect to be arriving at the studio in a stretch limo with cheering crowds lining the street, and then delicately alighting onto the red carpet in the glare of popping flashbulbs. I just can't decide *what* to wear! Actually, I'm going there on the train. I've absolutely no idea what to expect except that Roger already has **Realtime** CDs and has asked for a couple of **GOF** MP3s, which Charlie is kindly sourcing for me. Roger seems to know quite a bit about our chorus so I'll try to spread the barbershop gospel while being realistic about my knowledge and modest musical abilities. But every time I'm in Oz, and NZ too, I realize how much they crave any kind of knowledge and news from North America, and *especially* skilled teaching. And to finish: I just want to reiterate what a marvellous city Melbourne is. I've traveled a fair amount but in my humble opinion, and Shirley's too, this is one of the very best cities of all. *Great* choice. So until Harry's next edition, all the best from yr humble svt in Oz, In Bassness, David Ellis.

Presentation



L to R: Sean Donovan, Arthur Loyie, George Gregory

On February 5th Director of Chapter Development **Arthur Loyie** welcomed **Sean Donovan** as a new GoF member and presented him with his certificate and pin. **George Gregory** got his Man-of-Note pin.

Comment #21 by Bill Gibbons

"Advice to new quartets; don't ask for requests. You'll never know it."

Deadline for the next issue is March 18, 2008

CALENDAR

2008

- Feb 14 [Valentine's Quartets](#)
- Feb 16-17 Ray's Garage Sale
- Feb 23 GoF Awards Banquet, W Vancouver
- Mar 8 [Singout](#) Tsawwassen Coast Hotel
- Mar 21 Easter
- April 4-5 [Div I Convention](#) Abbotsford, BC
- April 10-13 SAI Region 26 Convention, Surrey
- May 2-3 Prelims & Div IV, Portland, OR
- May 10 [Sing For Life](#) Surrey
- May 31 [50/50 Show](#) Como Lake Church
- June 14 [Spring Cabaret & Silent Auction](#)
- June 29-July 6 International, Nashville, TN
- July 19-20 Harmony College NW, Tacoma WA
- July 27 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
- Sept 1 Labour Day
- Sept 5/6/7 [Retreat](#) Brackendale
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving
- Oct 24-25 District Convention Boise, ID
- Oct 30-Nov 2 [Pan Pacific Convention](#) Hawaii

2009

- Jan 25-Feb 1 Midwinter, Pasadena, CA
- April 10 Easter
- June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA
- Oct 30-31 [District Convention](#) Whistler, BC