

June - July 2008

## Singing for Life



On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> over 200 of the Society Chapters serenaded donors at blood clinics across the US and Canada. **John West** of the Langley Chapter organised Lower Mainland BHS and SAI barbershoppers to gather at the Canadian Blood Services Clinic on King George Hwy in Surrey.



**Antique Gold + Dr Dave** hours and we came close, entertaining for 5 hours.

**Choruses** were: Pacific Showtime, Langley First Capital, Soundscape, Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune, Westcoast Harmony and Peace Arch Chorus



VOH Quartet

**Charlie Metzger** directed the 30 GoF members on the chorus risers. GoF singers in quartets included Antique Gold (**George & Charlie Metzger, George Wakeham**

John reported that: "Without counting those who sang in more than 1 group again, we had 130 singers from 14 groups performing. The goal was to perform for 6.5

**Quartets** were: New Tricks, Old Growth Timbre, Synchronix, Thirty Something, Voices of Harmony Quartet, Dave Clarke Four, Antique Gold and Afterglow."

and **Dave Anderson**), VOH Quartet (**Al Pinvidic, Alex Leung, Jeremy Wong and Sean Huston**), Afterglow a mixed quartet with **Sean Huston**, and **Tate Clarke** who sang with the Dave Clark Four and Thirty Something.



Tate Clarke

Blood donors of note were **Arthur Loyie** (1<sup>st</sup> time), **Tate Clarke** (33<sup>rd</sup> time) and **Dave Whittier** (watched by Taro and Shoji who were too young to bleed but enjoyed the cookies and juice). Photos are by Barb Bourbonnais and Wendy Gung.

## Shows & Rehearsals

The chorus has been kept busy under the musical direction of **Charlie Metzger**, choreographic direction of **Allan Pinvidic** and show performance direction of **Elie Savoie**. In addition to Tuesday night practices, two four hour Sunday afternoon rehearsals were held at the church on **April 27<sup>th</sup>** and **May 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** the GoF participated in "**VoxFest: '8'**—A **Concert for Peace**" at the West Vancouver Kay Meek Centre. Eight dynamic a cappella groups sang songs from around the world: Chroma, M'Girl, Synergy, Lions Gate, Gentlemen of Fortune, Vancouver Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir, and the Sarah McLachlan Music Outreach – an Arts Umbrella Project Youth & Children's Choir.

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** was our annual 50/50 Show for Como Lake United Church. It provided a marvellous opportunity for the chorus to present our show "**A Musical Tribute to the Silver Screen**" to a live audience for the first time. The audience comments were very complimentary and costuming was said to be excellent.

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## Direct from Charlie

### A Change of Season – A Change of Mind!

With the advent of the Spring Show a new barbershop season is upon us. We have plans, of course, because we have to plan well ahead. But I wonder if you feel, like I do at times like this, that it might be time to ask some questions about what we want at this juncture, and how we would like the future to be.



So, putting aside the likelihood that we will **find a way to make a recording of the songs featured on the show** – it would have to happen **quite soon** and we **would need most of the chorus available** – and holding the notion that it would be a good time to **get started on some new songs** and perhaps **change things up a bit with some small group classes and singing lessons for our new members**, let's ask ourselves some questions and share the answers around in some way that someone will devise:

1. **What do you want out of your choice to be a barbershop singer?** Please answer this first, before going on. Give it a little thought.
2. **Now, if you got it, whatever it is, how would you know?** What would it look like, sound like, feel like?
3. **When, where and with whom do you want what you want?** It's important to put what we want in some kind of context.
4. **What would getting what you want do for you?** And when that happens, what would **that** do for you?
5. **Is there anything you might lose if you got what you want?** There are often unintended consequences that might be important to consider.
6. **How will getting what you want affect the wider systems that you belong to?** Sometimes we get messed up by not considering the effect of what we want on other aspects of life.
7. And finally, **what steps will you take to get it?** Action is important. Some people recommend that we act on a decision, in some way, within 24 hours of setting a goal. What might you do that would be a first step in getting what you really want out of your barbershop experience?

Onward and upward! Charlie.

## New Members

By Rhinestone Ricky

### Bill Rankin – Bass



One of our newest members hails from the centre of Canada aka Ontario; Bill was born in Thunder Bay. They have some great hockey players that come from that part of the country. He's been here in BC for 10 years now and loves it. He has been married for

36 years and wife Sandie works at Ridge Meadows Hospital. They have two grown daughters, one of whom is getting married this fall and one that is unmarried. All you single guys should start buying Bill his beer at Me-N-Ed's. Bill is a business owner but he will not elaborate as it is highly secretive. A long time ago, Bill did some folk singing in High School and University. Jim Lohnes (Large Parcel) talked him into coming out to chorus. Besides the desire to sing, Bill also enjoys golfing, sailing and going to the gym for a workout.

Please give Bill a big welcome next time you get a chance to talk to him.



**Bennett Chester –  
Lead**

We have all noticed Bennett coming to chorus for several months now. What you don't know is that he is engaged to be married but not anytime soon. No kids to speak of

so he has a lot of time to devote to this hobby. Bennett was born in Memphis Tennessee which strikes me as odd because he doesn't have a southern drawl. Bennett spent time in California before winding up in BC 7 years ago. He is employed as a warehouse worker delivering booze to BC Liquor. He doesn't drink it, just ships it.

Bennett has a wonderful lead voice and I was stunned to learn he has never sung before, anywhere. Marty Lovick met Bennett at a show and enticed him to come out to the chorus. His other hobbies include comic book collector, video collector and he loves to paint. Bennett says he isn't ready for the shows yet but will be joining us on the risers very soon now that he knows the music. How about some of you guys grabbing him and doing some wood shedding?



**June 2008  
Down  
Memory Lane**

By Ross Hood

**40 years ago this month (1968)**

The **Howe Sounds** (r to l: **Barry Shields, Moe Jones, Al Hayward** and **Don West**) from the **Vancouver Thunderbirds** walked off with the top spot in the International Prelims contest in Idaho Falls.



The **Model T Four** placed fourth on their way to the top. The big winners at the Big Wheel that we hosted were the **Poets** from **Bellingham** and **Anacortes**. A quartet made up of members from our and Vancouver chapters was **Mart, Bart, Mart, and Fargo**. We began a running pitch and putt tournament where you were given an opponent and arranged a time and place to play and the winner went on further. It began rather enthusiastically but petered out during the summer days.

**30 years ago (1978)**

The **Sound Policy** (**Marty Lovick, Ken Wigbers, Brian Waplington** and **George Metzger**) began their trek to the top by placing fourth in the International Prelims where they captured the **Novice Award**. We held a Spring Dance at the Arenex in Queens Park with a 17 piece band from Powell River and a good sized crowd in attendance.

**20 years ago (1988)**

After five consecutive victories by the **Gentlemen of Fortune**, the **Vancouver Thunderbirds** beat us out for the Divisional Championship. We hosted the convention and **Barry Shields**, the director of the Thunderbirds, lead a mass sing on the New Westminster City Hall steps. **Charlie Metzger** brought his son **Mark** as a guest - the start of a great Barbershop career. At the executive meeting it was determined that **Wally Coe** was to take over from Charlie as Chorus Director; Charlie was to take the position of Musical Director. **Byron Walton** stepped down as assistant director to take on the directorship of the **Bellingham Mount Baker** chorus.

**Lower Mainland Youth in Harmony**

By Dave Pinhey

On April 19th, at our local Harmony Xperience camp in Langley, it was a distinct pleasure to listen to 40 youth singing their hearts out for their parents and grandparents



at the conclusion of the day's camp. The boys sang two songs on their own, as did the young ladies' chorus, and then one song together. They soak it up SO fast, with great results; and choreo moves, too!!!

I want to acknowledge a few generous donations that the Lower Mainland Youth in Harmony program has received lately. Most of you have heard of the **\$1,000** donation that **Realtime** presented to us at the Division I Convention afterglow - that was their Show appearance fee! Then, **Elaine Rutherford**, visiting from Renfrew, Ontario over the period of the Convention, donated a cheque to YiH for **\$150**, followed by a cheque from Langley's own **Derek Sanft**, sharing his winnings from a 50/50 draw to the tune of **\$100**, a private donation of **\$250** from someone (anon) in the Gentlemen of Fortune, **Eric Janzen** of the T-birds **\$190**, and **Bill Martin and Family** from GoF for **\$150**. The T-Birds normally donate between \$75 and \$100 a month, from change collected in a YiH box, set out at Chapter meetings. How very generous! Thank you, T-birds.

Just before Christmas, we received a cheque for \$50 from the **Paulding family** in Chilliwack as they were so pleased with what the Annual Harmony Explosion Summer camp in Tacoma had taught their daughter **Sarah**. Her quartet **Dream Girls** took on a gig and sent us their earned money, \$75 for our treasury. So generous and thoughtful.

Volunteer for the YiH committee, and you won't miss any of this action! And such a return for your time!! Donations are always acceptable too, at any time. All Chapters have a representative. [Bill Martin in the GoF]

## Rick's Notes

By Rick Morrison - Music & Performance VP

We continue to strive to improve the chorus singing and performance levels.

- The current songs we are learning will be our show songs for the next 6 to 8 months. Overall, the **Spring Show** is shaping up very nicely under the great organizing skills of **Gord Ross**.
- **International** contest in Nashville is coming up the first week of July. If anyone is going please let me know. If you are planning to attend **Harmony College Northwest** in Tacoma in late July, please come see me.
- We are planning to bring back the **Bootstrap Program** with several options for you to choose from starting in late June. Will someone volunteer to host a chorus party in their back yard this coming summer?
- There are no show dates in July or August. **Harmony Hollow** is on Labour Day; however **Jim Bates** refuses to disclose the location. The **Fall Retreat** is being planned as we speak.
- **Hawaii** is getting closer, have you made plans? Our **Christmas Show** committee, headed by **Carl & George Gregory** (sounds like a lawyer's office), are into planning acts right now. If you have any suggestions, please go see them.
- One housekeeping item for everyone. The **risers** are not an easy item to put up and take down and the regular guys that do this should be recognized for their assistance. If you haven't lifted one in a while, why don't you help and give 'em a break eh?

Cheers

Rhinestone Ricky

## EVERYDAY LAWS

### Law of Biomechanics:

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Comment #39** by Bill Gibbons

"Be careful when asked to sing the same note throughout an entire tag - it's probably the most difficult part to do well."

**Deadline for the next issue is August 8, 2008**

## CALENDAR

### 2008

June 14 **Spring Cabaret & Silent Auction**  
 June 24 GoF AGM  
 June 29-July 6 International, Nashville, TN  
 July 19-20 Harmony College NW, Tacoma WA  
 July 27 Anacortes Salmon BBQ  
 Aug 29-31 Harmony Hollow  
 Sept 1 Labour Day  
 Sept **Retreat**  
 Oct 13 Thanksgiving  
 Oct 24-25 District Convention Boise, ID  
 Oct 30-Nov 2 **Pan Pacific Convention** Hawaii  
 Dec 6 **Christmas Show** Michael J Fox

### 2009

Jan 16-17 QCED Show Seaside, OR  
 Jan 29-31 Midwinter, Pasadena, CA  
 Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
 Mar 27-28 **Division I Convention** Vernon, BC  
 April 10 Easter  
 June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA  
 July 18-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA  
 Sept 7 Labour Day  
 Sept 11-13 **Retreat** Brackendale  
 Oct 12 Thanksgiving  
 Oct 30-Nov 1 **District Convention** Whistler, BC  
 Dec **Christmas Show**

### 2010

Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics, Whistler  
 Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**  
 Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics  
 April 2 Easter

### Internationals

2010 Philadelphia, PA  
 2011 Kansas City, MO  
 2012 Portland, OR  
 2013 Toronto, ON  
 2014 Minneapolis, MN