

## Celebrating 50 years of Harmony: 1957 - 2007

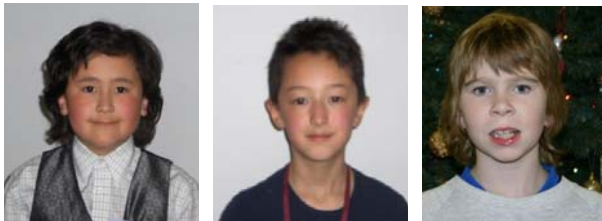
**"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH WORLD-CLASS BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"**

June - July 2007

### Welcome our Newest Members

By Arthur Loyie

Since I have been a member of the GoF, I have heard rumblings of our aging chorus requiring more youth. This year we have begun to realize a rebuilding of our base of singers.



Shoji & Taro Whittier

Matt May

We welcome tenors **Matt May, Shoji and Taro Whittier** and **Eric Morrison**, along with leads **Nick Tinney** and **Carl Gung**.



Nick Tinney

Carl Gung

Eric Morrison

To this, add earlier members **Will Chen, Jeremy Wong, Chris LeRose** and **William Liong** and we lower our average age of the chorus substantially. Thank you to the men-of-note who provided the encouragement to attend, audition and actively participate weekly.

It is obvious to see that our chorus is not just for seasoned veterans of barbershop, but is able to attract potential quality singers.

### Inside this Issue

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### Barbershopper of the Month (May)

By Peter Lissett



If you check out your recent edition of *Timbre*, on page 8, you will see a photograph of a group with **Harry Gray** smiling away in the back row - a 'Summit' meeting! Harry represents us in a number of areas in the Evergreen District, which we generally hear nothing about, keeping the big wheels of administration

turning. However, the main reason for being presented the Barbershopper of the Month Award was for his continuing outstanding job as the editor of our *FortuneTeller*. Our District Advisor, Brian Ayers, said it was the best chapter newsletter in the district.

### Barbershopper of the Month (June)

By Peter Lissett



In the last few months I have become increasingly aware of the size and scope of the Treasurer's job and all the niggling little details that **Don Rush** looks after with great efficiency and good humour. Most recently, he did all the heavy lifting in preparing our annual application for funds from the Gaming Commission. Without these funds our operating deficit would be a deeper hue of red.

## 2007 Chapter Officers

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## Direct from Charlie

### Summertime

It seems to me that except for meeting formally and consulting together, the state of musical leadership in the chorus is much healthier than it was.



I know it is a weakness of mine to be somewhat solitary and do too much on my own rather than rally the help that is so readily available in the musical and instructional talent of the chorus. That's one of the reasons that we focussed from January to March on developing coaching skills, and from April to June on using some of our available expertise in Bootstrap. Many people have taken a higher profile and contributed generously to our chorus as coaches and teachers. Thank you to all of you. Of course, our section leaders and assistant directors have also continued to contribute their time and skills. Thanks to you too.

Summertime is a time when things tend to slow down a bit, mostly because people are away vacationing, but also because some of the musical leadership is away. However, we always have some people away and manage to stay productive, and summer can be that way too, especially with many people taking responsibility.

It helps as well to have a pretty clear idea of our intended accomplishments. Here's a short list of goals that we can stick to during the summer even when the director is absent.

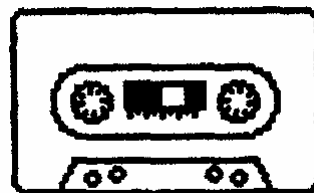
1. Let's warm up and then continue to sing with the kind of ensemble sound that gives us section and chorus unity.
2. Let's rehearse performance a lot during the summer and sing our whole repertoire regularly, keeping in mind our goal to feel deeply and express our emotions fully.
3. Let's strive to improve our mastery of the new music we are learning. That means doing some preparation every week, ideally a bit each day.
4. Let's lead and honour our leaders by preparing well and cooperating to be goal-focused each week.

If we do these things, the summer will be both fun and productive.

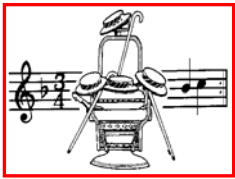
You should know that I will be away three times during the summer: once for International, once for Harmony University, and three times while coaching in Finland, and directing and singing with the QCED Russia Chorus in St. Petersburg. Andry, Alex and Rick Morrison are all willing to direct. Many are prepared to coach and lead the section practises which will be held each week. I'll be in touch as regularly as possible via email.

Have a great summer and keep our Vision in mind:

*"Working together in fellowship,  
we enrich society  
with world-class barbershop entertainment"*



**LEARN  
THOSE NEW  
SONGS**



June - July 2007  
**Down**  
**Memory Lane**  
 By Ross Hood

**50 Years of Harmony 1957 - 2007**

This is the fifth of our 50 year history synopsis.

**1975**

In '75 **Lawrence Spencer** took over as Bulletin Editor for 6 issues. He was also acting as VP. **Chester Colpitts** was Chapter President. **Charlie Metzger** took



over from **Gerry Staton** as chorus director. **The Flashbacks**, (**Ron Becket, Earl Colpitts, Ben Fast and Gerry Staton**) were doing a lot of performances. For

**Flashbacks**

the contest in Victoria anyone under 6'-0 tall was required to bring a block along to stand on so we would all around reach close to 6'0". At the international convention in Indianapolis, the **Happiness Emporium** won over the **Insiders**. **Dallas Metro** took top honors in the chorus contest

**1976**

I took over as bulletin editor in '76 after dumping the job as Timbre editor. **Lawrence Spencer** accepted the post as chapter president, with **Bob O'Shaughnessy** as VP. **Eric Janzen, Gordie Cull, Wier Muir and Bob Blair** were singing up a storm as the **Fraser Highwaymen**. We competed in the divisional contest. It was a divisional contest but it was simply to pick the top 3



**Fraser Highwaymen**

choruses. No champion was announced. We, the North Van, and the Vancouver chorus were picked to go on to the district contest in Spokane. The **Sound Policy** competed for their first time in the divisional. By the way they were the first quartet from our chapter to go on to International Competition. The first Apple Barrel contest was held in the Okanagan Valley. Some 40 members and wives took the bus trip. **The Bear Cat Studs**, (**Bob O'Shaughnessy, Ken Wigbers, Ross Hood, and George Metzger**) took top

honors. The Chorus placed 11<sup>th</sup> in Spokane in the fall. There is a photo in the harmonizer of **Wally Coe** when he won the Ontario district championship with the **Scarborough Fair**.

**1977**

**Bob O'Shaughnessy** took over as President with **Harry MacGee** as VP. **Alex Hood** was again editing the bulletin. We sang for the CBC Canadian Heritage Show. Some of us were dressed in "settler" type costumes and native Indian garb for the show. We learned "**Buddy Can You Spare A Dime**" for that show. We placed ninth in the Portland District Contest. At International in Philadelphia the **Most Happy Fellows** were crowned champions beating out the **139<sup>th</sup> Street Quartet**, the **Vagabonds**, and **Boston Common**, and the **Dukes of Harmony** from Scarborough took top chorus honors.

**1978**

**Barry Shields** came over from the **Vancouver Thunderbirds** to become our assistant director under **Charlie**. We began our annual chorus car rally,



**Sound Policy**

basically a mystery route to a picnic. The chorus competed in Kelowna and came home champs. Someone might argue with me but '78 is the first year I see any mention of the Squamish retreat. We officially packed up the Bum costumes at the end of the year after placing 7<sup>th</sup> at the District in Spokane. At International Contest in Cincinnati the top quartet was the **Blue Grass Student Union**, and the top chorus was the **Thoroughbreds**.

Next month: 4 more years.

**BoxcarGOF** By **Gandydancer**

In the community of honorable hobos, train writing or hobo graffiti was born. Boxcar observers were treated to a diverse palette of visual form and expression. Beyond human caricatures and moniker tags, one could find political satire and propaganda, poetry and, most significantly, an iconic code of symbols directed at fellow hobos. These icons served as a secret communications network for the freight-hopping population. Hobos would write this code with chalk or coal to provide directions, information, conditions and warnings to other hobos about what they might expect in a particular place.

Some examples:

- A circle with an X inside meant a good place to stop for a handout.
- An empty circle meant nothing to gain here.
- A circle with an arrow pointed the way to a better spot.
- A circle with two arrows through it meant hit the road quick!
- A triangle with hands signifies the homeowner has a gun.
- A square missing its top line signifies it is safe to camp in that location.
- A top hat and a triangle signify wealth.
- A cat signifies that a kind lady lives here.

This hobo graffiti still goes on today to a certain extent but more to advertise that a certain spray-canned artist had been there rather than any useful information for the traveler. Many of these modern day graffiti painters are only interested in their artistic flair and don't travel any further than the local rail yards.

Some more Hobo lingo:

*Catch a ladder* – hop a train by grabbing onto the boxcar ladder

*Cover with the moon* - Sleep out in the open

*Cow crate* - A railroad stock car

*Honey dipping* - Working with a shovel in the sewer

*Soup bowl*- A place to get a free meal

*Spear biscuits* - Look for food in garbage cans

## Harmony Xperience

By Dave Pinhey



The **Lower Mainland Youth in Harmony Committee** is holding a one day **Harmony Xperience** camp, Saturday July 14th, 9am to 5.30pm, for boys and girls aged 12 through 20. Cost is \$10.00, and includes 2 snacks, lunch, music and an Official T-shirt!

This is a week prior to **District Harmony Xplosion** camp in Tacoma, and is a warm-up for kids attending there. It is also an introduction to 4-part a cappella harmony for those who may not be able to travel to Tacoma. If things go as planned, we'll be holding a 3-Day camp in BC next year. Visit our website [www.youthinharmony.ca](http://www.youthinharmony.ca) for the address in Langley and registration form. Our GoF representative on the YiH is **Bill Martin**.

## What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



There have been two board meetings since the last report.

### March Board Meeting Highlights:

Membership levels remain constant at 71, though **Secretary/Treasurer, Don Rush**, noted there were some dual memberships on our roster at BHS head office, that did not attend any GoF functions, and they should

be removed, there being attendant cost to the chorus.

Don Rush discussed the financial reports previously e-mailed to board members. After discussion, they were accepted. The 2007 Budget was also presented. The Chapter's membership dues were put under scrutiny. The possibility of a different practice accommodation was discussed as there are some shortcomings with our present site at CLUC. The budget was accepted with the proviso that absent members may request adjustments at a future meeting.

A written report was received from **Past President, Ian McGillivray** regarding progress, or lack thereof, with the improvement of the GoF website. The board agreed that this is a very important project. Ian is continuing his efforts on this item.

**VP Music & Performance, George Metzger** outlined his plans for the coming months. It includes quartet and chorus coaching and a new program for new members to develop Barbershop techniques and vocal production. He went on to recommend that the GoF forgo competition in 2008 in Division and District and, instead, compete at the Pan Am Convention to be held between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2008, in Honolulu, Hawaii. This recommendation was approved by the board. In order to help raise funds for this project, a big Spring Cabaret will be produced.

A letter from **Bill Martin** regarding the Youth in Harmony Outreach Project was presented by **VP Membership & Chapter Development Arthur Loyie**. This will receive full chapter support.

### May Board Meeting Highlights:

The chapter's financial position remains strong as indicated by the financial statements presented by **Secretary/Treasurer Don Rush**. He indicated that **Gary Korstrom, Peter Lissett** and he would be working on the application to the Gaming Commission

for funds in the next week or so, although he was not very optimistic as to the result. It seems we have been receiving less each year. There were no adjustments to the budget that had been accepted at the last meeting.

There have been some improvements to the website. They were done by **Ian McGillivray** and **Clarence Stad**. Ian reported in writing (as he was unable to attend) that his investigations into professional help on this project could be in the region of \$3200.

**Bryan Ayers**, our Chapter Counsellor, noted that the chapter should be most punctilious about paying for all copies of sheet music used by members and guests at practices. Penalties for not doing so could be most disastrous.

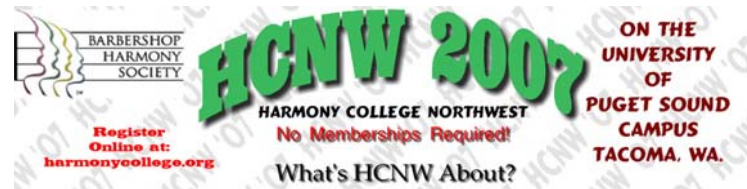
**Sing Canada Harmony.** GoF members have received a document regarding this new charitable organization. Its equivalent in the States allows financing of week long retreats for young people to learn barbershop, among other things. **Charlie Metzger** explained that this initiative could pave the way for similar endeavours in Canada.

**VP Music & Performance, George Metzger** reported that **Moe Jones** was heading the committee to establish ways and means of participating in the Pan Pacific Convention in the fall of 2008; that operation bootstrap was progressing well; that vocal lessons were being given to seven new members and three others who were paying their own way; that **Tom and Mark Metzger** will be coaching the chorus at retreat this year; preparations for the Christmas Show were underway; and, finally, that **Gord Ross** is to be the Show Chairman for our Spring Cabaret in 2008.

**VP Membership & Chapter Development, Arthur Loyie** reported that guests were interested in observing but that very few were keen to join the chorus. He suggested that more effort should be made to befriend those prospective members that showed an interest.

The GoF's 50<sup>th</sup> year initiatives were discussed. One of them will be the hospitality room at the District Convention this October.

**Brian Ayers** spoke about the District Convention at Bellevue on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October which will be preceded by other a cappella functions. He also noted that COTS will take place on 17-19<sup>th</sup> November in Portland, Oregon. Input for courses is required.



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[www.harmonycollege.org](http://www.harmonycollege.org)

### Harmony College 2007 Class List

| Class                          | Area                 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Generational Differences       | Chapter Development  |
| Websites For Growth            | Chapter Development  |
| Chapter Bulletin Writing       | Chapter Development  |
| Directors Of The Future        | Directing & Coaching |
| How To Coach                   | Directing & Coaching |
| Coaching Apprenticeship        | Directing & Coaching |
| How To Teach What You Know     | Directing & Coaching |
| Chapter Counselor              | General Studies      |
| Contest Management             | General Studies      |
| Dynamic Music Reading          | Music & Barbershop   |
| Arranging                      | Music & Barbershop   |
| Theory of BSH                  | Music & Barbershop   |
| Tune It Or Die                 | Music & Barbershop   |
| Chorus Coaching                | Performance          |
| Quartet Coaching               | Performance          |
| Planning A Performance Package | Performance          |
| Beginning QT Experience        | Performance          |
| Microphone Usage for Quartets  | Performance          |
| Presentation in Barbershop     | Performance          |
| Living The Music               | Performance          |
| MC'ing & Script Writing        | Show Production      |
| Warmups to Work With           | Singing              |
| Woodshedding                   | Singing              |
| Tag Singing                    | Singing              |
| Gospel Sing                    | Singing              |
| Sing A Stack Of Songs          | Singing              |
| Vocal Health & Care            | Singing              |
| Vocal Training                 | Singing              |



# QUARTET CHAMPIONS of the EVERGREEN DISTRICT (QCED)

QCED, organized in 1972, is committed to the preservation, promotion, education and development of quartet singing within the Evergreen District.

Here are some of the things QCED is doing to enhance quartet singing:

1. QCED raises funds from 2 annual shows, the Evergreen District Convention show and the Seaside show.
2. An allocation of funds is made, each year, to quartets toward travel expenses for those quartets that compete at International and the Senior's Contest at Mid-winter.
3. Donations have been made to the Bud Leabo Memorial Fund and the Quartet Top Gun Schools.
4. The QCED Endowment Fund has recently been established. This fund will further assist in the development of quartet singing in the future. Charlie is a trustee for this fund.
5. The Bud Leabo Memorial Fund has a new program called, "Operation Opportunity". Chapters that have not attended a Division or District contest for 5 years can apply to have coaches work with their chorus and quartets. This is where QCED comes in. Qualified QCED coaches will come to the chapter for a weekend workshop and the Bud Leabo Fund will pay the coach's expenses. This is a great plan to motivate chapters to participate in contests.

The above is a short bio of the QCED organization and I thought you would be interested in some of QCED's activities. To find out more about QCED, go to the Evergreen website, [www.evg.org](http://www.evg.org), and click on QCED.

Moe Jones

**Comment#24:** by Bill Gibbons  
"Chorus progress is made on alternate meeting nights."

**Deadline for the next issue is August 7, 2007**

## CALENDAR

### 2007

June 24 **Singout** North Delta  
July 2-8 International, Denver, CO  
July 14 Harmony Xperience, Langley  
July 20-22 Harmony College NW, Tacoma  
July 29 Anacortes Salmon BBQ  
August 11 **Singout** Crofton House, Vancouver  
August 30 **Singout** PNE, Vancouver  
Sept 1-3 Harmony Hollow, White Rock  
Sept 7-9 **Squamish Retreat**  
Sept 29 **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Celebration**, Burnaby  
Oct 8 Thanksgiving  
Oct 15-21 **District Convention** & a cappella Festival Bellevue, WA  
Nov 17-18 COTS, Portland, OR  
Dec 1 **Christmas Show** MJFox Theatre

### 2008

Jan 18-19 QCED Show, Seaside, OR  
Jan 25-26 Midwinter, San Antonio, TX  
Mar 8 **Singout** Surrey Golf Club  
Mar 21 Easter  
April 4-5 **Div I Convention** Abbotsford, BC  
April 10-13 SAI Region 26 Convention, Vancouver, BC  
June 29-July 6 International, Nashville, TN  
Oct 13 Thanksgiving  
Oct 24-25 **District Convention** Boise, ID  
Oct 30-Nov 2 **Pan Pacific Convention** Hawaii

### Internationals

2009 Anaheim, CA  
2010 Philadelphia  
2011 Kansas City  
2012 Portland, OR  
2013 Toronto  
2014 Minneapolis

