

FROM THE EDGE

*A periodic Newsletter of
the High Country Barbershop Chorus,
White Mountains Arizona Chapter*



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<http://www.spebsqsfwd.org/wmac/>

November, 2007

From the President

Bob Koons

From Everett Peterson



I'm writing this article in Golden Colorado to try to meet Jerry's publishing schedule. My hosts here figured out that I'm an old timer when I told them about watching Joe DiMaggio play baseball.

A couple weeks ago, Jan and I attended a birthday party in Greer for a grand ol' gal celebrating her 80th. This lady was born in Holland and lived much of her life in South Africa. She invited friends and family from all over the world, mostly from Holland and South Africa. She attended our summer show and enjoyed the barbershop sound so she invited JDJ and the Upright Bass to provide the entertainment for her party. She requested "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" which the boys didn't know but they whipped it into shape just for this party. I was amazed at the power and energy they put into that song!

Like everyone else, I am anxious to get the learning CD for the 2008 music. It's hard for us non-musicians to learn the music off the paper without first hearing it. But we have made some good progress on several numbers.

Most of us are pretty comfortable with the Christmas songs - I wish we could do at least some of them without paper.

In the next few weeks, we will see how vital our Director is in our program. It's not quite fair to have a party in his absence, but I'm sure we'll all be praying for successful surgery and a speedy recovery for Doc.

Prez Bob



Is it Good?

What does an audience look for in a performance? Basically, they're not sitting with score sheets in the front row; they just want a good performance. Is it

good?...At the end of the performance, we want them to answer with a resounding "Yes"! The challenge for our chorus, I believe, has to do with the "set" of our audience: the level of expectation they bring when they come to our performances, and particularly our annual show. We've built a high level of expectation from our audience with our past shows, and we need to keep building on that in future shows.

One of the more enlightening classes I attended at Harmony University this past summer was Ev Nau's class, Performance Review. Ev's focus was on the "total package" of the entertainment that we provide the audience. A key to managing and meeting our audience's expectations is to approach the performance not with the attitude of "look at ME", but "what can I GIVE you?" We're not there to "show off", but to give back something of value to our audience who have purchased our tickets and taken the time to come see us.

We can think of our performance as a string of "song pearls" which are part of the total entertainment package. While our directors and music committee work together to determine certain larger elements of the performance in terms of song variety, timing and pacing of the performance along with the show MC--the "string" to which the song pearls are attached--we as individual chorus (Everett Peterson, cont. on page 3)

From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



I have had the question, “Where are our learning CD’s for the Disney show?” Here is the answer. The original learning CD’s I had acquired for the show, were made over twenty years ago, and the

Music Committee did not wish to subject the chorus to them. Frankly, they were of fairly poor quality, with the singing not up to what you have been used to for the past several years, and they were strictly learning CD’s with no semblance of performance or interpretation in them, and in fact sung quite choppy. So, I have contacted James Estes, who is now working at our Society Headquarters, and the voice that the BHS is using on its new learning CDs to do our CD’s. He has completed one song so far, and that is “A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes”, from Cinderella (a song we acquired from Tom Gentry). He does a fine job, and you will be pleased with his singing ability. The Disney package that you have been handed out, is scheduled to be completed by early November, so I hope to have CD’s in your hands by the first of December.

The show will include the following songs (Songs the Chorus sings are noted in bold):

First Half

- Before the curtain opens, there will be two groups of ten guys with Kazoos. Group I will play “It’s a small world”, measures 71 through 85, at which time Group II starts to play the same song, Measures 172 through 187, and Group I joins them, repeating their song.
- The Main curtain then opens and the chorus sings the Mickey Mouse March,

using the optional ending, measure 37a – 40a.

- **Zip-A-Dee Doo-Dah**
- Fortuosity (Crooks Trail)
- **Give A Little Whistle**
- **When You Wish Upon a Star** (Alan Beste – Director)
- I’ve Got No Strings (I hope to get a local child to sing this song – Any ideas?)
- Ten Feet Off the Ground (JDJ and the Upright Bass)
- **With a Smile and a Song**
- It’s A Jolly Holiday With Mary (Pine Tones)
- **Hushabye Mountain** (Alan Beste – Director)
- **I Love to Laugh** (Jim Murphy – Director)
- **A Spoonful of Sugar**
- **Heigh-Ho**
- **A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes**
- **Disney Song Medley**

Second Half

- JDJ and the Upright Bass
- Nexus Quartet (Headliners)
- **True Love**
- **Cabaret**
- **I Only Have Eyes for You**
- **You Raise Me Up**

Costuming will be what you would expect to see in Disney Land, with some Pirates (of the Caribbean), street vendors, park cleanup people, Gippetto, Pinocchio, and other characters, which we need to develop (we will be looking for your ideas). I envision having a Disney land experience for our audience, e.g. tickets will be “E Ride”, staging to be developed, but the flavor of the park. It should be a fun show for the chorus and the audience.

DOC

(Everett Peterson, cont. from page 2)

members need to be “plugged in” to the package mentally. As we rehearse individual songs for our show in the coming months, use your creativity to think about each song and try to come up with ideas YOU can work with to bring the song to the audience. The sooner we can get away from learning notes and words, the more we can work on the performance elements that more effectively communicate the music to our audience. We need to think of delivering our songs as a gift for their enjoyment. As the show package develops and we begin to add the script, think about what the MC is saying to propel your thoughts and your mood and body posture to deliver the next song with as much emotional intent as the songwriter intended, and to effectively communicate that emotion to the audience. Our personal engagement with the total package helps to propel the entire act forward to the satisfying conclusion of our audience’s “hearty ovation”.

Everett Peterson

From the Editor

Our most recent newsletter was August, 2007; we missed Sept. and Oct. Since August, the editor has received only three articles for publication, one each from the President and Director - who contribute to every issue - and the article from **Everett Peterson** in this issue.

Interestingly, there have been no “complaints” that there weren’t any issues in September and October.

Responses to an email sent out suggesting a quarterly vs. monthly newsletter seemed to suggest an even number of votes for each; however, the voters for monthly were quite vocal - they didn’t want to go to quarterly.

There are no conclusions in this article, I haven’t attempted to interpret this data beyond realizing that enthusiasm for the newsletter has significantly diminished over time. This is probably a normal process for newsletters, at least this has happened to many in organizations that I have been associated with. The second, obvious, thought is that with “*no news*” there can be “*no newsletter.*”

Perhaps it is time for a change. My suggestions might include:

1. Continue with a monthly newsletter with whatever news is submitted.
2. Go to a quarterly newsletter and hope for more and interesting inputs.
3. Perhaps there is someone in the chorus who would like to try their hand at publishing the newsletter. This happens in many organizations, and a new, enthusiastic, fresh approach frequently does revitalize the publication. (PS: This would not be a problem for me.)
4. Discontinue the newsletter, and go with a monthly update for the *Calendar of Events* on the web site.

What do you suggest?

Jerry

FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter: High Country Chorus

Officers

President	Bob Koons
Immediate Past President	Bob Cutlipp
VP Membership	Ron LaMar
VP Performance	Alan Johnson
VP Music	Alan Beste
VP Marketing, Public Relations	Open
Secretary	John Graham
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Board Members at Large	Mick Mitchke Jerry Schrunk David Wheeler
Director	Doc Dockendorf
Asst. Directors	Alan Beste Jim Murphy
Music Librarian	Dennis Shankland
Sunshine Chairman	Jim Murphy
Bulletin Editor	Jerry Schrunk

November Birthdays

Nov. 10	Doc Dockendorf
Nov. 24	Ron LaMar

FROM THE EDGE Nov., 2007

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Nov. 13, 2007	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Nov. 27, 2007	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Dec. 11, 2007	Christmas in Snowflake (12 Days of Christmas)	7 PM Arr. 6:30	Snowflake LDS Social Hall / Theatre
Dec. 15, 2007	Walmart Christmas Show	1 PM	Showlow Walmart
Dec. 18, 2007	Walmart Christmas Show	7 PM	Showlow Walmart
Jan. 12, 2008	Officer Installation Dinner	6 PM	TBD
Jan. 19, 2008	Chapter Officers Training School	9AM to 4 PM	Phoenix
Mar. 15, 2008	Big Band and Barbershop	7 PM	NPC / PAC Snowflake
April 5, 2008	Chorus Workshop Day, with Bill Biffle	8:30 AM to 5 PM	Practice Hall
July 12, 2008	2008 Show	2 & 7 PM	BRHS

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