



The Music Beat

May - June 2007

Volume XLIII Issue 3

A Special Tribute Issue, with thanks,



"But !"



&

"POW!"



Sarasota Florida Chapter - Sunshine District

From the Editor



Most people never even get to meet a true genius in their lifetime, much less get to be one of the beneficiaries of their imparted wisdom. But such has been the good fortune of our Chorus of the Keys, who can now be counted among the hundreds of Barbershoppers who have also had the benefit of the coaching genius of Mr. **Donald Clause**.

But, this issue, happily, is a recognition of and a tribute to, not one, but two such talented individuals who have devoted much of their lives to helping, guiding – coaching – individuals and groups – quartets and choruses - to improve their performance quality. **George Gipp** is the performance complement to the music and singing guidance provided by Mr. Clause. So, one might conclude, if one is good, then two should be twice as good. Right? Well, almost. Think of other perhaps more famous duos in the entertainment industry: Hope & Crosby; Astair & Rogers; Martin & Lewis, Abbott & Costello, et al. In much the same way, the experience of having *both* Don and George in a team-coaching session, has an amazing serendipity effect: they “feed” on each other and the results of their mutually reinforcing directions and guidance become, well ...almost magical.

We lovingly refer to this special team as “*But!* and *POW!*” for reasons that will remain an inside joke ... for now. Suffice it to say that whatever we have learned from the two of them has put a special “Pow!” in our performance quality as a chorus, and there are no ifs, ands or “buts” about that.

With a song in my heart,

Frank

Editorial Board

Frank Astorino - Editor

cotkmusicbeat@msn.com

Stephen P. Ditchfield - Consulting Editor

Jerry Lunkes - Editor Emeritus

Deadline

For all input to the July Issue of

The Music Beat

June 17th

The mission of the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys and its quartets is to seek to preserve and further develop the original American art form of four-part, a` cappella harmony through musical excellence and frequent public performances for the broadest possible spectrum of Southwest Florida audiences; and to contribute to the cultural development of the community through responsible public service while providing charitable support to benefit school music educators and students participating in their music programs.



Gary Raulerson
Chapter President

Talk about Great Music and Great Fellowship!! What can I say except Thank You to everyone who helped us in our journey through the Sunshine District Spring Convention. We sang the best we could and got beat by a couple of quality choruses. Our congratulations go out to them. Thanks especially to **Steve, Don Clause, George Gipp**, and the Music Team. More thanks to Mike Miller for coordinating everything leading up to the convention, the riser crew, **Fred Lathwood** for driving the risers from Sarasota, **Jack Webber** and **Ed Hinkley** for their work on the costumes, everyone who brought goodies for the Afterglow, and all the guys and wives who helped out with Harmony Marketplace.

Another round of congratulations goes to My Three Sons for your outstanding performances. You always make us proud.

Now back to business. OK, our business is singing the best we can, so it's FUN business. Our job now is to learn how to transfer more of what we've learned on the contest songs to everything we sing. We'll be getting a bunch of songs in the next couple of months leading up to the Inspirational Concert, the Christmas Show, and our 2008 Van Wezel Show. When you're working on these tunes, try and incorporate energizing the singable consonants, maximizing the vowels, turning the diphthongs, and the many other techniques we've used on the contest numbers. Like Steve says, you've done it before so we know you can do it!

Gary

Consulting Editor's Note: Special thanks to Frank for his tireless efforts in preparing this issue of The Music Beat before taking his medical leave of absence. Our thoughts and prayers are with you for complete healing and a speedy recovery!

Stephen Ditchfield
Chorus Director
Onward & Upward!



This summer marks the completion my sixth year as your Director - where has the time flown! We set out on a journey together, and it has been an exciting path full of challenges, accomplishments, and victories. We've accomplished goals never before achieved by the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys, and we've risen to heights some had only dreamed about, but never believed possible. It has been a good six years!

It has also been a time of deepening friendships and delightful fellowship as our barbershop family has grown to include so many wonderful men from all walks of life.

We've come through some difficult times together, too. We've lost some good friends, both members and their wives, whose absence has left a void in our midst but they will always be remembered in our hearts! Being a part of this barbershop family has been a blessing, especially in these times of loss! But we go on!

Now it's time to once again take stock of where we are, where we are going, and what we want to accomplish along the way! None of us is getting any younger, but fortunately some of our newer members are helping to combat the ever-rising average age of our chorus members. Good singing attracts good singers, many of which tend to be younger singers, too! While that's a good thing, we still have to maintain our own responsibility for keeping up our personal performance standards no matter what our age, so as to encourage growth and excellence in all our endeavors.

I'd like to challenge you to re-think your personal commitment to **THE CHORUS OF THE KEYS** - and get excited about what you'd like to see us accomplish in the next few years, and be willing to do everything in your power to make it happen!

Onward and Upward

Stephen



Don Loos

Past Sunshine District Vice President
Harmony Foundation Chairman

HARMONY FOUNDATION GIFTS

Through week 15, April 10th, the green buckets have taken in \$945 or an average of \$63 per collection. These collections are to benefit the Harmony Foundation, which seeks to promote the barbershop style of music for present and future generations to enjoy. In 2005, after 15 weeks, the buckets collected \$1,200 or \$254 more than this year. Last year after 15 weeks, the buckets collected \$1,165 or \$220 more than this year.

The bottom line is that the buckets are taking in less to support the Harmony Foundation than in the recent past. Last year, for the first time, we failed to meet our collection goal. I am taking an "easy out" (copout???) and not setting a goal for the buckets for 2007. I am trusting that we'll do our best and let it go at that. So many of you have been generously giving to our Chapter Legacy Fund in the last 18 months, so it's understandable that our green buckets have suffered a shortfall. But while you're reading this, if you've got an extra \$5.00 in your wallet, stick it in an envelope, bring it to rehearsal next week and drop it in the green bucket. You won't miss it, and we'll be back on track!

Your excellent and generous support continues to be very much appreciated.



Jack Webber

Our indomitable wardrobe guru demonstrating suggestions for how we should be dressed for contest in Jacksonville on May 5th.

Your standard of giving
is more important than your
standard of living

SPECIAL NOTICE

For our annual show

If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive an announcement and ticket order form by September of 2007, please contact our information line at **(941) 371-3331**, or our mail list manager at **(941) 866-5778**, or email to:

chorusofthekeys@comcast.net

It's all for fun on Quartet Night !



Don Hadden (T) Dick Heddleson (Bs)
Andy Guerriero (L) Sam Love (Br)



Frank Chlad (T) Ken Rohrs (Bs)
Glen Moon (L) Don Hurdle (Br.)



Dick Zarfos (T) Hank Stromenger (Bs)
Don Shipp (L) Ed Hinkley (Br)



Dick Zarfos (T) Dave Richards (Bs)
Jim Spear (L) Vern Sievers (Br)



Howard Dobson (Br) John Dawson (L)
Charlie Alexander (Bs) Bob Fedel (T)



Dick Zarfos (Br) Jerry Russo (L)
Ray Schiller (Bs) John Tardy (T)



The Sarasota
CHORUS OF THE KEYS

Erd Dahl,
Fund Chairman

**Preserving the Love of
Vocal Music -
*Making a Difference***



Here is a photo of the presentation by our president, **Gary Raulerson**, of the first Legacy Fund check to **Stewart Stearns**, President of the Community Foundation. **Tom Waters**, Vice President, Charitable Planning of the Community Foundation and **Erd Dahl**, Legacy Fund Chairman, looking on.

(*Erd wrote a short article with a fact sheet and gave it to the foundation. A version of that article will appear in a future issue of The Music Beat.*) .



**A Special "Thank-you" Tribute
To Our "A Team" -
Don, George and Steve**

In a chorus of as many as 100+ singers – male or female – Mr. Clause may stop the singing mid-phrase and, with a well-directed look or eye-stare or hand gesture, point to a section where a single, unsuspecting voice had sung a wrong or off-key note! Or he will spontaneously alter an arrangement to change a note or two in a chord to give it a better, more interesting sound or “feel.” And just when you think you’ve got it right, he’ll say, “That’s great, ***BUT***.....and proceed to improve it!



Don Clause began his musical odyssey as a young lad playing the trumpet, but his earliest experience with Barbershop singing was as the lead in his *Hometown Quartet* in Lodi, NJ which managed to win the 3rd Place Bronze medal in 1958.

The questions that are often asked of Mr. Clause: “How do you do what you do?” ..., or, “How did you learn such skill?” ..., or, “How do you hear the things you do?” ... or, “How did you acquire that special talent?” And his answers usually go something like: “I really don’t know. I guess it’s a gift that I just assume God wanted me to have. Which is why I’m delighted to pass it along, to share it with the many groups of wonderful guys that I have had the opportunity to work with over the years.”

And if one is tempted to conclude that because Don Clause is now in his “sunset years,” he is slowing down or losing some of his vigor as a coach, forget it. He is as much in demand, by young, newer groups as well as the well established and more “seasoned” ones all over the US of A. And, don’t bet against him on the golf course where he still shoots his age or better at least three times a week.

(*See Mr. Clause’s impressive list of credits and accomplishments on Page 8.*)

Now, as for **Mr. Gipp**:



When anyone – or certainly any member of the *Chorus of the Keys* – thinks of our good friend and very special Stage Presence mentor, one word invariably comes to mind: “*POW!*” ... because no other word better expresses or describes the dynamic and super-energetic personality that is **Mr. George Gipp**.

When coaching a quartet or chorus, he will draw on his ever-ready wellspring of talent, wit, energy and emotion to infuse and draw out those very same qualities in the group that he is addressing. He admonishes, cajoles, encourages with pleadings like: “C’mon guys, you’ve got to *get into the lyric*. What’s it saying *to you*? Can’t you *feel* that? You



have to *feel* the emotion that the writer meant for you to feel. You’ve got to *understand the message* and *react* to it!” But he doesn’t just say it – he vividly demonstrates what he means and what he wants his audience to imitate. And it’s not always about a “*POW!*” ... some lyrics and some emotions call for his softer, more mellow response - that special, plaintive, “*Aaahhh.*”

And both sentiments are not simply to be articulated with a vocal response but must include appropriate body language, the physical, full-body expression involving face – lips, eyebrows, forehead,

All of that said - the coaching of technique, chord re-arrangements and creative nuances, making all of the right moves and gestures - now, all of that has to be *observed, absorbed, understood* and, finally, *applied* to a group of guys for whom the “getting of it” may not come so easily.

And that’s where the third wheel of our winning team comes to the fore. We are indeed fortunate to have, as our director, **Mr. Stephen Ditchfield**, who has the special ability - the “chops” in the jazz vernacular – to understand, appreciate and apply all that these wonderful coaches are able (and willing) to give us - and then some!



With a level of energy, talent and commitment equal to that special “*But*” and “*Pow*” duo, Steve gives his all to our chorus and he does so, tirelessly and consistently, week after week after week. [Ed.: *In the six years that he has been our director, I don’t believe he has missed more than one, single scheduled rehearsal other than his long-awaited,, twice postponed, and well -deserved vacation this May.*]

So, to all three - Don, George and Steve - we say thank you,... thank you, ...and ...thank you!



Salt Lake City - 2005

Ed. Note: This page lists all of the most notable quartets and choruses that were coached by Don Clause and went on to win gold medals as International Champions. It should be noted that this entire summary was dictated to me by George Gipp, over the phone, "off the top," from memory, while he was waiting for a flight in some distant airport.

Frank Astorino

Quartets

1973 – *The Dealer's Choice*

1974 – *The Regents*

1975 - *The Happiness Emporium*

1976 - *The Insiders*

1978 – *The Bluegrass Student Union*

1983 – *The Side Street Ramblers*

1984 - *The Rapsallions*

1989 - *The Second Edition*

1990 - *Accoustix*

1991 – *The Ritz*

2002 - *4 Voices*

In addition to the above impressive list of International Champions, Don was directly involved with many quartets that were able to benefit from his coaching and managed to win multiple medals in international competition. For example,

1985 – *Vaudeville* – Silver Medalists

1986 – *The Cincinnati Kids* – 4th place finishers

1988 – *The Chicago Chord of Trade* – Bronze Medalists

Choruses

1975 – 1979: *The Vocal Majority* – helped to form this group which included members of *The Dealer's Choice* quartet who, at the time, were the section leaders for the chorus. Don's coaching guidance was key in bringing the now renowned chorus to world-famous prominence.

1977-1980: *The Dukes of Harmony* (Scarborough, Ontario)

1983 - *The Southern Gateway Chorus*

1990 – 1993: *The Foothills Chorus (CA) The Masters of Harmony*

2000 – 2005: *The New Tradition Chorus* (Northbrook, IL) His coaching and close liaison with director Jay Giallombardo helped to bring this chorus to achieve the gold in 2001 after seven second place silver medals in the preceding years.

In addition to these stellar accomplishments, Mr. Clause takes justifiable pride in the following milestone accomplishments:

Worked closely with Mr. Scott Werner as director of the championship chorus *The Alexandria Harmonizers*, from Alexandria, VA over a period of many years.

Coached the *Hilltop Chorus* of the Great Northern Union in the 1990s helping them to achieve an impressive third place finish in 1992 and again fourth place in 1993.

The Masters of Harmony in 1990

One of the titles of which he is most proud is his Mid-Atlantic District's Hall of Fame Award which was granted to him as the only man to have brought three different choruses to win their district's competition: *Lodi*, *The Whalers* and *The Big Apple*.

The prestigious **Unsung Hero Award** was bestowed on Don Clause at the 2004 International Convention in Louisville in recognition of his record of coaching multiple medalists over the years!



Will Jenson

Vice President
Marketing & Public
Relations

Remember The Buffalo Bills ?

Meredith Wilson - unsung marketing genius. Un-sung?

Why would any New Yorker in his or her right mind ever pay money to see a play about Mason City, Iowa? Why? All New Yorkers know about geography is that New Jersey is the other side of the Hudson and there's something called "Up-State." That's it. Paris, London, Rome, no problem. Bore you to tears with detailed descriptions of restaurants, hotels, shopping, etc.

So, as a New Yorker in 1957, here's your challenge. You can choose a play about the South Pacific, Austria, Jolly Old England, the west side of New York or Mason City, Iowa. Where? You can choose the music of Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Lenard Bernstein, or perhaps Georg Szell and the Cleveland...or Meredith Wilson and The Buffalo Bills. Meredith Wilson? Who is he? The Buffalo Bills? What's that?

See what I mean? Pure genius that fellow Wilson.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of a show that ran 1,510 performances on Broadway, *The Music Man*. A play about a street smart hustler who can't play a note, selling musical instruments to a town full of "rubes" with "Trouble. Trouble. Trouble." while testing the chastity of the town's librarian. Yup. Some of any New Yorker's favorite themes. Just the geography's different. See what I mean? Great marketing. Now go ahead; name me half a dozen better loved shows that ran longer.

About the Buffalo Bills: they started as a quartet in Buffalo called the Barber Shop Four in 1945. In Buffalo, you might as well sing because the ice fishing's lousy. The sludge from the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland killed off most every living thing in the Lake. Not like Minnesota where they ice fish winter, spring, summer and fall and have no time for singing. Fish don't understand harmonics anyway. Probably

why there's no quartet called "the Minnesota Vikings."

At a gig before the Buffalo Quarterback Club, long before Buffalo had a football team, the emcee forgot his lines and introduced the quartet as the Buffalo Bills. Not only did the name stick, they named the football team after them. Well, historically anyway.

When Meredith Wilson wrote about his home town, he included a Barbershop Quartet. Wilson had records by the group, invited them to audition and hired them on the spot.

Besides the play, the Buffalo Bills did the 1962 film version. They also appeared on the Arthur Godfrey radio show, and in 728 concerts, 137 state fair performances, 626 conventions, 672 night club and hotel performances, and 216 TV shows. Their last performance was at the Waldorf-Astoria, May 24, 1967.



And Meredith Wilson? Not much to say about him. He was a flute and piccolo player in John Phillip Sousa's band (1921-1923), then New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Arturo Toscanini (1924-1929). His music for Charlie Chaplin's film *The Great Dictator* (1940) was nominated for an Academy Award. *The Music Man* received the first Grammy Award for Best Original Cast Album ever issued. He also wrote *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Here's Love* and *1491*. New Yorkers can be a bit shy on history dates as well as geography.

And Un-sung? Try "Seventy-six Trombones," "Gary, Indiana," "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas," "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You" and "Till There Was You" for the Beatles.

Wilson was recognized for "surprisingly well-crafted, complex, and subtle music that classical fans could appreciate, with intricate and often startling counterpoint, well-crafted melody, and subtle orchestration, all while still appealing to mass audiences." (Wikipedia)

Pure genius that fellow Wilson. .

Will Jenson



Ed Manville

Sunshine Chairman

Our purpose is to give meaning to life and in doing so, to overcome the passive, indifferent life.” Elie Wiesel

Bob Ellems - is at Bella Vita Assisted Living
1420 Venice Ave., Venice (941) 483-4374

Charlie Lenny - is now at home, recovering. Has some voice loss due to medication. Hopes to be back with us after contest.

Russ Springstubb - still at Colonial Park Assisted Living on Bee ridge Rd. Continues in weakened condition and depression. Needs visitors who can cheer him up.

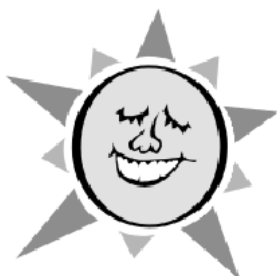
Clark Lowell - is 91 and moving north to live with his son at 276 Quaker Road, Scottsville, NY 14546

Jim Styer - had a malignant tumor removed from his left lung. Is resting and recuperating.

Late Notice: Just before going to press we received word that our dear friend and long-time barbershop member, **John Canfield**, passed away on May 25th in Ohio, after a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Cards can be sent to Jeanne at 3999 Woodbridge Road, Upper Arlington, OH 43220-4660

Please direct all Sunshine News items to:
Ed Manville at (941)346-8219, or

hiedm3@comcast.net



Sad News

*Our chapter was deeply saddened by the passing of two of our most faithful and ardent supporters— **Millie Bennett** and **Nancy Swan**. Every week, without fail, standing on the risers and singing our hearts out, we would be encouraged by the clear view of these two very special ladies, in their wheel chairs, observing our performance.*

Millie suffered for the past two years with Kidney failure which required dialysis treatments with the necessity of constant care and assistance from her dear husband, Father Gerry. Her smile and grace whenever at one of our functions will be missed.

Nancy suffered her second stroke at one of her favorite Chapter functions, our monthly Lunch Bunch gathering. It was her second stroke in the past seven years and her recovery from the first is believed, by Larry and his family and friends, to have been a miracle. In spite of her trials and handicaps, Nancy always managed to light up the room with her ever-ready smile -a pleasure that will also be sorely missed every Tuesday evening.

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies go out to the Bennett and Swan families.

SHERIDAN E. BROWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Erd Dahl,

Secretary, Sarasota Chorus of the Keys
Scholarship Program

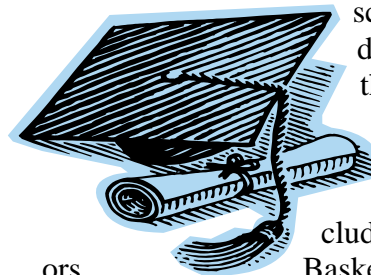
The Scholarship Selection Committee, comprised of Chairman **Gordon Lenci**, **Tom Hankins**, **Gary Raulerson**, **Vern Sievers**, **Bob Quinn** and **Jerry Russo** have selected three talented young musicians to be the recipients of Sheridan E. Brown Memorial College Scholarships for the 2007-2008 college year. In addition to their top grades in school they have extensive experience in various forms of music.

The recipient of the \$2,000 scholarship is **Jonathan Dendy** of Booker High School. Jonathan has extensive experience as an operatic soloist and as member of his high school vocal jazz ensemble. He has performed at Carnegie Hall and will perform in Europe this summer. He was selected as one of two basses in the nation to perform at the 49th Grammy awards as Guest of the Recording Academy. He is also a flutist and pianist and has performed throughout the area as the "Dendy Duo" with his brother, former scholarship winner, Matthew Dendy. Jonathan has been accepted at the Boston Conservatory and plans to pursue a BS in voice and eventually earn a degree in orchestral conducting.

Receiving a \$1,500 scholarship is **Kodi Sells**. Kodi is a classical soloist and also is a member of the Booker High Jazz ensemble. He is an accomplished classical pianist and clarinetist. He is a finalist in the national Grammy Jazz Ensemble competition,

has performed in Carnegie Hall, and has received a Merit Award from the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts (NFAA). Kodi hopes to attend the Berkely College of Music or the Boston Conservatory to obtain a degree in Vocal performance and follow that with a Master Degree in Music Education. His ultimate goal is to begin a career in performing Jazz and Contemporary Christian music as well as writing compositions and scoring movies and plays.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to **Nicholas McDuffee** of Bayshore High School. Nicholas is accomplished in guitar, violin and piano and has performed in the school orchestra, as a vocalist and guitarist in his church services and as a guitarist in a local band throughout his high school career. A



scholar athlete whose academic record places him in the top three percent of his class, he is the recipient of numerous academic and athletic awards including High Academic Honors, Basketball Athletic Award, and the All American Scholar Award. Nicholas plans on attending USF or Florida Southern College where he will major in pre-med while pursuing a minor in music to eventually become a professional guitarist as a second career.

During the past 19 years the chorus has awarded 59 college scholarships totaling \$62,900 to high school seniors with exceptional accomplishments in music moving on to further their studies at the college level.

The winners were introduced and acknowledged by the membership of the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys at its weekly chapter meeting and rehearsal on May 1st, 2007.

... and the winners are...

(pictured L to R):

*Nicholas McDuffee, Jonathan Dendy and Kodi Sells with Gordon Lenci, Chairman of the Sarasota **CHORUS OF THE KEYS**, Scholarship Committee.*



"Getting to Know You"

... Frank Chlad

Frank is one of our multi-talented guys who has been around sharing that talent in Barbershop for some forty years. Unfortunately, we lose him, along with our other Snow Birds, when he leaves Sarasota in summer to be with his Cleveland East chapter. Among those talents was one in the field of Figure Skating in which he won U.S and international titles and was nationally ranked as a teenager. To date, he is the only skater to have qualified for the U.S. team in three events: singles, pairs and dance. Named as an alternate for the U.S Olympic team in 1956, Frank turned professional in 1957 when he became a coach, choreographer and performer in ice Shows.



Professionally, Frank was a faculty member emeritus at the University of Akron where he taught chemistry and served as the Director of Hazardous Materials and went on to author books and several articles on chemical safety and laboratory design. Through his consulting company, Frank designed more than 30 chemistry buildings and science centers throughout the country.

As an accomplished Barbershop Tenor, Frank was part of the *Crooked River Music Company* quartet for 26 years and along with Herb Ramerman (lead), Chet Campana (bari) and Jack Donohoe (bass) was the first Barbershop quartet to perform at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. More recently, and for the past nine years, Frank has sung locally with the *Y B Limited* quartet with his old time friends, **Arnie Appel** (lead), **Phil Wilding** (bass) and **Jim Garvin** (bari).

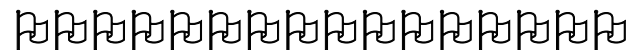
In addition to singing, Frank has served his Cleveland chapters as president, show chairman and script writer on several of their shows. And those of us who have been a part of the Sarasota Chapter for

any length of time have also come to know and appreciate Mrs. Chlad - not only for putting up with Frank for 51 years! - but for lending her own time and energies for the benefit of our chapter as well. As Frank expresses it: "I'm fortunate and thankful that Dorothy understands my passion for Barbershop and puts up with all of this. She may not be an Olympian, but, like all Barbershop wives, she deserves a gold medal!"

... to which we all say, "Amen!"



Maybe we could get him to show us this move at rehearsal one night!



Welcome Aboard !

THE CHORUS OF THE KEYS

welcomes new member John Short, bass! John is a student at Manatee Community College and sings with Michael & David in the MCC Concert Choir where his deep bass voice attracted their attention. He accepted their invitation to visit our rehearsal one Tuesday night, and the rest is history - he's



really enjoying it! John is married to Carrie, and works in the sound department with the music ministry at Bob & Jan Durgin's church in Bradenton. He is a wonderful addition to our chorus!



Quartet Notes



The Ditchfields

Michael - Lead

David - Tenor

Nathanael - Bari

Stephen - Bass

My Three Sons

2003 District Champions

When it comes to competition, My Three Sons are winners whether the scores reflect it or not! It was apparently not the year for My Three Sons to qualify for International competition, but the quartet didn't have the time to be concerned about it. Five days after contest, My Three Sons and The Ditchfield Family Singers were debuting their first annual "Best of Broadway" shows for two packed audiences at Church of the Palms in Sarasota. During the "Fiddler on the Roof" vignette, the audience was treated to a special My Three Sons version of "Sunrise, Sunset", and the first half of the show closed with the "Oliver" favorite, "Who Will Buy."

Then on May 27th, My Three Sons had the privilege of performing for the Manasota Theater Organ Society at their annual concert at Grace Baptist Church in Sarasota. The featured organist, Ken Double from Houston, Texas, was delighted to accompany the quartet during the second half on a very special rendition of "Lida Rose" with the organ playing the counterpoint melody ordinarily sung by a young lady (such as Shirley Jones or Stephanie Ditchfield.) Almost 200 patrons from the Best of Broadway shows became first-time attendees at the Organ Concert when they heard that My Three Sons would be there - and many of the Organ Society patrons were equally interested in learning more about My Three Sons and the barbershop shows! It was a win/win combination!!

And on another exciting note.....on Mother's Day, Nathanael presented Bernice with a gift bag full of baby booties, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers to announce the wonderful news that Gina is expecting

their 4th child - in late December! That was quite a surprise - for everyone! So we're seeing the Lord's purpose in My Three Sons not having to commit the time and finances to attend International in Denver this year. We're going to have our work cut out for us in preparing for the upcoming Christmas season and our first ever Van Wezel family Christmas Show without Gina - there's no replacing her wonderful voice. But we're trusting our audiences will be as delighted as we are with the new addition on the way, and will look forward to Gina's reappearance with a new little one as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, it's going to take reworking arrangements and a lot of creativity over the next few months, and the old saying, "necessity is the mother of invention" was never more true. We've got lots of ideas already in the works, so it should be very exciting!!

This month, My Three Sons will be the teaching quartet for the annual Youth Harmony Explosion Camp in Orlando during the Sunshine District Sizzle. They'll be working with about 300 boys from all over the state, introducing them to barbershop harmony and teaching them 5 songs for a performance at the conclusion of the Camp. It will be particularly meaningful to have Michael (19) and David (18) working with the teenagers, since they are vocal performance music majors in college and are great ambassadors for our Sunshine District barbershop society! They are particularly adept at demonstrating the barbershop style to the Music Educators as Stephen explains the unique harmony and performance of a barbershop quartet or chorus. While in Orlando, they've also been asked to handle the Sunday morning Worship Service for a large corporate event being held at a nearby resort, so it's one more opportunity to use the gifts and talents they've been given!

For booking information, please call Bernice at

(941)923-2013

or visit the website at

www.DitchfieldFamilySingers.com

Important Dates and Notices

June 14-17, Thurs. - Sunday: Harmony Explosion for Young Men in Harmony, with teaching quartet - *My Three Sons*, University of Central Florida, Orlando

June 15 - 17, Friday - Sunday: "Sizzle" for all Sunshine District members; UCF, Orlando.

July 2-8: *International Competition* in Denver

July 15: COTK sings at First Baptist Church in the Sunday morning service.

July 22, Sunday: *Special Edition* sings at Church of the Palms 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services to promote our Inspirational Concert in August.

August 10, Friday at 7:00 pm - Inspirational Concert at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road.

August 11, Saturday at 2:00 pm - Inspirational Concert at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road.

October 5 & 6 Fall Competition in Jacksonville

NOTE NEW DATE: **Tuesday, December 11: 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.** 8th Annual Ditchfield Family Christmas Show will be held for the first time at **Van Wezel!**

February 9, 2008 Annual Show at Van Wezel

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2007

July 15: COTK sings at First Baptist Church in the Sunday morning service.

July 22 *Special Edition* sings at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. services at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Road, SRQ

IMPORTANT: NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN PLANS FOR THE INSPIRATIONAL CONCERT DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND: TWO CONCERTS - FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY AFTERNOON!

August 10 Inspirational Concert - Church of the Palms at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15.00
&

August 11 Inspirational Concert - Church of the Palms at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15.00

October 5 & 6 Fall Competition in Jacksonville

NOTE NEW DATE: **Tuesday, December 11: 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.** 8th Annual Ditchfield Family Christmas Show will be held for the first time at **Van Wezel!**

February 9, 2008 Annual Show at Van Wezel

SPECIAL NOTICE

For our annual show

If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive an announcement and ticket order form by September of 2007, please contact our information line at (941) 371-3331, or our mail list manager at (941) 866-5778, or email to:

chorusofthekeys@comcast.net



Birthdays

Members

May

Gerry Bennett 04
 Paul Bravo 12
 Frank Chlad 12
 Stephen Ditchfield 03
 Scott Duink 04
 Tom Hankins 25
 Ed Manville 21
 Mike Miller 26
 Walt Schlicht 30
 Don Shipp 16
 Jim Styer 01
 Fred Williams 31
 Dick Zarfos 15

JUNE

Bob Isringhaus 24
 Leo Mailhotte 14
 Jim Marrayat 29
 Bob McPherson 27
 Dave Richards 14
 Jim Tobin 15
 Harold Uling 8
 Mel Walter 14
 Ray Wild 10
 Dave Zimmerman 21

Sweethearts

May

Adrienne (Bob) Svozil 01
 Helen (Phil) Mazzola 03
 Laurie (Charles) Lindberg 09
 Peg (Jim) Styer 09
 Fay Murphy (Howard Dobson) 14
 Eileen (Alex) Hughes 14
 Nancy (Charles) Lenny 15
 Patricia (Dean) Wise 17
 Janice (David) Kuhn 21
 Sheila (Ray) Wild 27

JUNE

June (Merrill) Brown 1
 Florence (Leon) Porch 2
 Barbara (Glen) Moon 13
 Christine (Tim) Wolf 15
 Rose (Frank) Astorino 16
 Ruth (Frank) Hawking 17
 Nancy (Ed) Manville 21
 Radeene (Milt) Rothweiler 28
 Jan (Bob) Durgin 29

Anniversaries



May

Ed & Louise Hinkley 05
 Fred & Christa Williams 06
 John & Carol Gilrane 10
 Ken & Marilyn Rose 17
 Cary & Marie Zolot 19
 Jim & Michelle Marrayat 21
 David & Nancy Richards 23
 Richard & Judy Heddleson 25
 Frank & Alice Sapareto 05
 Jerard & Janet Russo 31

JUNE

Gary & Jen Raulerson 1
 Robert & Dee Isringhaus 2
 Gene & Clarice Gnuse 6
 Leo & Ann Mailhotte 6
 Al & Helen Piltz 6
 Bob & Carolyn Reidenbach 6
 Howard & Lore Gollnick 8
 Dick & Phyllis Allen 9
 Don & Mary Ann Scholten 11
 Sam & Wilma Love 15
 Don & Suzanne Van Der Kolk 15
 Gene & Joyce Courts 16
 Mike & Barbara George 16
 Andy & Barbara Guerriero 16
 Don & Lois Ann Huldin 16
 Gordon & Jo Ann Loy 17
 Ray & Sheila Wild 17
 George & Patricia Edmonds 20
 Mel & Charlotte Stone 22
 Tom & Marguerite Hankins 27
 Del & Jan Sinclair 28
 Steve & Cynthia Eccher 30
 Don & Mary Shipp 30



The Barbershop Harmony Society
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Inc.



THE CHORUS OF THE KEYS

P. O. Box 51751, Sarasota, FL 34232-0314

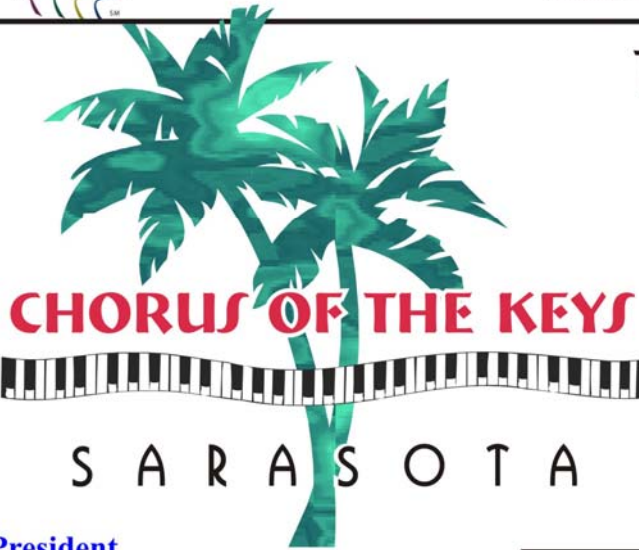
(941) 378-3331

Visitors Always Welcome!

Rehearsal every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church

1670 Main St., Sarasota, FL



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*Mailed to you and over
350 other Barbershoppers,
their families and friends.*

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