



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

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Pittsfield & Providence take gold, LEH qualifies!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

Saratoga Springs, NY -- Yes, I know it should say Watervliet, but things happen here in the North Country, especially in the "spring." It seems that there was a snow/ice storm which caused the closing of the high school and the closing of our two day contest venue.

Thanks to the quick work of Fred Schonenberg and Ken Abbott, a new location was found in the Maple Avenue School in Saratoga Springs. "New," is the right word as the auditorium was less than two weeks old and we were likely the first to use it's excellent acoustics, both on stage and in the audience.

All six contests went off without a hitch, although several cars went off the road on the way back to the Clairion in Troy following the quartet contest.

In the quartet sessions, Bourbon Street (Saratoga and Frank Thorne) took gold in the Mountain Division while Burlington's Lake Effect Harmony placed third behind The Allard Project (Saratoga, Nashua and Frank Thorne).

In the Yankee Division, Applause (Manchester, Providence, Concord MA and Frank Thorne) beat Scollay

Square (Lincoln RI and Frank Thorne) by a single point out of 1190!

Interesting fact: the chapter represented by the most quartets (five) was the Frank Thorne Chapter!

The College Quartet Contest had only two entries with 8 Bits from the College of Saint Rose beating out Conundrum from Western Connecticut State College by three points.

In Saturday's contests, Providence's Narragansett Bay Chorus took home the highest score by winning the Yankee Division contest with an average of 75.5 points. This is still a long way from the 80.3 average scored by Nashua in last fall's district contest. See the composite ranking of choruses on page 2 showing the relative position of each qualifying chorus in their last appearance. Last fall's placement and average score follows the name of the chapter.

In the Mountain Division, Pittsfield's 18 singers surprised all by beating Saratoga Spring's 45. Burlington's Green Mountain Chorus moved up one notch taking third just ahead of Greater Montréal's Mountain City Chorus.

The VLQ was won by Manchester's Six Pack.

Easter Bonnet Contest next week

by Gary Brunell, Program Chairman

Next Tuesday evening the chapter is sponsoring an "Easter Bonnet" contest open to all. Prizes will be awarded as determined by the judges, yet to be determined.

Since there are no rules for this contest, the possibilities are limitless. Go ahead and use your imagination or you might want to seek the assistance of someone else's imagination.

Now, that the contest season is over, it's past time for spring to have sprung and time for a little fun. So lets see your best Easter bonnet



Inside

NED Chorus Summary	p. 2
Bartley wins BETY	p. 2
Think we had bad weather	p. 3
YMIH Update	p. 3
Wow!	p. 4
20 Week Club Winners	p. 4
Coming Events	p. 4

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2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

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Charlie Church

Northeastern District Chorus Summary

Chapter/Nickname	Songs	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Ave	Cnt
1 Nashua, NH (2002 District Contest)	<i>I Wouldn't Trade The Silver In My</i>	244	240	241	1446	80.3	78
Granite Statesmen	<i>Nice Work If You Can Get It</i>	240	239	242			
2 Providence, RI (2 - 74.0)	<i>I've Been Working On The Railroad/I'm A</i>	225	225	227	1359	75.5	35
Narragansett Bay Chorus	<i>Make 'Em Laugh</i>	219	239	224			
3 Portland, ME (3 - 69.4)	<i>How I Miss My Alabam</i>	212	211	221	1297	72.1	41
Downeasters	<i>Take Me To The Land Of Jazz</i>	210	219	224			
4 Concord, MA (4 - 64.9)	<i>Who'll Take My Place (When I'm Gone)?</i>	197	194	194	1194	66.3	33
Sounds of Concord	<i>You GottaHave Heart</i>	200	204	205			
5 Pittsfield, MA (10 - 58.6)	<i>Mary, You're A Little Bit Old Fashioned</i>	193	187	195	1150	63.9	18
Berkshire Hillsmen	<i>That's An Irish Lullaby</i>	187	188	200			
6 Saratoga Springs, NY (5 - 64.6)	<i>If I Give My Heart To You</i>	199	200	188	1143	63.5	45
Racing City Chorus	<i>Don't Break The Heart That Loves You</i>	183	193	180			
7 Manchester, CT (7 - 61.3)	<i>Tin Roof Blues</i>	195	189	191	1140	63.3	36
Silk City Chorus	<i>What'll I Do?</i>	190	183	192			
8 Central, CT (6 - 61.6)	<i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i>	191	189	182	1119	62.2	26
Connecticut Yankee Chorus	<i>I'll Be Seeing You</i>	185	188	184			
9 Worcester, MA (11 - 57.1)	<i>I Wonder What's Become Of Sally</i>	187	186	190	1111	61.7	43
Men of Song	<i>Wedding Bells Are Ringing For Sally</i>	185	180	183			
10 Burlington, VT (9 - 59.3)	<i>Roses Of Picardy</i>	189	185	186	1108	61.6	23
Green Mountain Chorus	<i>Goodbye, Dixie, Goodbye</i>	186	181	181			
11 Hanover, NH (17 - 54.6)	<i>Ain't Misbehavin</i>	178	176	185	1087	60.4	28
North Country Chordsmen	<i>Old Songs Are Just Like Old Friends</i>	181	180	187			
12 Poughkeepsie, NY (19 - 53.3)	<i>Sing Me That Song Again</i>	173	188	179	1064	59.1	20
Newyorkers	<i>I love To Hear That Old Bshop Style</i>	168	187	169			
13 Beverly, MA (dnc - 61.5)	<i>Old Fashioned Girl (In An Gingham Gown)</i>	182	175	181	1062	59.0	31
Northshoremn	<i>When It's Night Time In Dixie Land</i>	176	174	174			
14 Greater Montreal, QC (dnc - 62.4)	<i>If I Had My Way</i>	171	177	176	1055	58.6	25
Island City Chorus	<i>Roses Of Picardy</i>	171	180	180			
15 Keene, NH (18 - 53.3)	<i>WhenTheRedRedRobinComesBobBob</i>	178	168	188	1054	58.6	27
Cheshiremen	<i>Beautiful Dreamer</i>	169	165	186			
16 Waterbury/Derby, CT (12 -56.9)	<i>Old Fashioned Girl (In A Gingham Gown)</i>	183	171	177	1051	58.4	17
Valley Chordsmen	<i>Take Me To The Land Of Jazz</i>	179	174	167			
17 Portsmouth, NH (16 - 54.7)	<i>Sweet And Lovely</i>	171	169	176	1033	57.4	19
Yankee Clipper Chorus	<i>I'll Be Seeing You</i>	165	174	178			
18 Springfield, MA (8 - 61.2)	<i>Hard Hearted Hannah</i>	176	175	170	1033	57.4	27
Chordsmen	<i>There Goes My Heart</i>	163	177	172			
19 Dartmouth, NS (13 - 55.2)	<i>For Me And My Gal</i>	165	167	164	993	55.2	38
City of Lakes Chorus	<i>You Keep Coming Back Like A Song</i>	169	161	167			
20 Scituate, MA (20 - 53.2)	<i>We'll Meet Again</i>	173	158	168	984	54.7	20
South Shore Men of Harmony	<i>If You Were The Only Girl In The World</i>	169	149	167			
21 Lowell, MA (2,4,6,8)	<i>Emaline</i>	156	159	173	981	54.5	18
Gentlemen Songsters	<i>My Melancholy Baby</i>	158	162	173			

Bartley crowned 2002 NED BETY

One of the significant events at the Western District Contest and Convention was the presentation of the Northeastern District Bulletin Editor Of The Year (BETY) contest award plaques.

Bob Bartley, Editor of the Danbury Chapter's *Hatter Chatter*, was presented the 2002 First Place award by District BETY Chairman, Jerry Walter (2001 BETY). Second place honors went to Roy Hayward, Editor of the Worcester Chapter's *Keynotes*. Third place went to Wally Duplessie, Editor of the Portland Chapter's *SOUNDINGS*.

This award is based on three areas of competition, Content (what subjects are covered), Grammar and Style (how well the articles are written) and Layout and Reproduction (how does the bulletin look). Judges are all members of the Society's Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) organization who also judge the annual International Bulletin Contest (IBC).

The Yankee Division has its own BETY award and traveling plaque. The 2002 winner was Bob Bartley.

You think we had bad weather!

or

How to respond to an ice storm that shuts down 13 counties including the contest venue only hours before the chorus contest

As reported by Dave Callard, lead of Uptown Sound (Silver medalist 2002), on the Harmonet

Uptown Sound had a **great** time at the Seneca Land District pre-lims this past weekend. There was a **ton** of adversity to overcome. The district administration and the panel deserve serious accolades for their perseverance and tenacity against what should have been a monumental debacle.

Rochester, NY - 3/4 of an inch of ice on Friday. Power failing, transformers and power lines were exploding green and orange on the horizon as we drove to the contest site. The lights went out for a moment on one performer. They continued their set like nothing had happened and elected to not do it again. The drive back to the hotel was terrible! The power went out at the hotel for a couple of minutes before the afterglow started. The elevators were closed. We all climbed to the sixth floor by stairs! The storm continued overnight as it got colder!

In the morning the entire county was declared a state of emergency. Trees and power lines were down covering a lot of the roads. The power was out all over the place and people were not allowed to travel. The contest venue was

closed! It was turned into a Red Cross shelter with around 300 people in it, I was told.

What do you do? Well if you are a barbershopper, the show must go on! The risers were retrieved and put into the small stageless ballroom at the hotel. The floor was set with seating for around 200 and the afternoon chorus contest started as planned! The judges and audience have never been as intimately seated at a chorus contest. It was very cramped but everyone adjusted quite well. The crowd seemed to have fun as we emceed the session. The Rochester Chorus won the district crown.

The quartet finals were held in the same venue. Everything worked out well. Uptown Sound sang as they did the final tabulation. The Rich-Tones won the college contest. From MAD, Rev-eille earned the right to go to Montreal as did the SLD pre-lims champions, Harmonix. (Our coach Rob Hopkins' quartet!) The awards were presented and Harmonix invited Uptown Sound on stage (floor) :) to sing "Impossible" with them for their accep-

tance. Each quartet traded off verses and sang together as well. It was a blast! Then the parties started!

I have never in my life seen as many hospitality rooms at one contest! We did a ton of them. — wish we had the time to do them all. At about 2:45 a.m, we finally retired.

Incidentally it was Rob Hopkins' 50th birthday and the Mohawk Valley Chapter had a wonderful cake with 50 candles which nearly resulted in a fire alarm. Rob, ya gotta work on the breath support for the next cake! They presented Rob with an "over-the-hill" cane and a really cool water-pressure-cut G clef and staff metal wall hanging.

The convention was great! The people in SLD were so warm and kind to Uptown Sound. What a fortunate district to be able to overcome a situation that was caused by every Contest Administrator's worst nightmare — an "act of God!" :)

Thanks SLD for being such troopers and for being such great hosts. We would come back **anytime!**

YMIH Update

Hi, Guys in the Green Mountain Chorus,

April 1, 2003

First of all, many, many thanks for coming to sing at MMU. It was fantastic! The parents, the administration, but most of all the guys in Men's Chorus loved it. They were amazed at your singing. You were able to demonstrate beautiful tone quality, singing without straining, the power of dynamic contrast, singing in tune, expression and showmanship, and much more.

We must get the guys together with you again. We are going to sing "Heart of My Heart (That Gang of Mine)" and "Up the Lazy River" for our June Concert. Any chance that you know those songs? The guys might be able to drive down and meet you for a workshop sometime.

Could we get an e-mail of the picture in the Undertone right away? Please send to Anne Taylor at VAAE@valley.net. She is the Vermont coordinator for the Vermont Alliance of Art Education which is associated with the Kennedy Foundation. She will print the picture of you and my guys in the state newsletter. Great PR for you.

Again, Thanks! Andrea [Haulenbeek]

DIRECTOR'S

C WOW!

by Greg Morrill, Musical Director

What more can a director ask? To have 24 men drive three+ hours each way in some of the worst road conditions of the winter to sing two songs is asking a lot! Obviously, those who made it were motivated to do a good job and that really showed. There's no question in my mind that our on-stage rendition of "Roses of Picardy" was the best we have ever sung that song. It was amazing to observe how that song came together in the warm-up room. Each time we sang it, it got better! Now I can't in honesty say that our performance of "Goodbye, Dixie, Goodbye" was the best we've done, but it was still on the higher end of what we rehearsed and reflected a more typical reaction to contest pressure. And the scores reflected the improvement: we were up a step in score across the board from last year with the same number of men on stage.

I'll repeat my specific thanks to the Central Vermont contingent who made the arduous journey and then had to perform in The Music Man. Words fail to describe that level of commitment.

My apologies go out to Dan Venditti and anyone else who didn't get notified of the venue change. As I was making calls Friday evening, so many already knew that I didn't call everyone and at least Dan was a victim.

So, thanks, guys, for turning what could have been an awful experience into an enjoyable experience. One of our fans (who's actually the wife of a Pittsfield chorus member) said it well: "I look forward to your performance and you never let me down."



CONVENTION NEWS

World Harmony Jamboree is barbershop with an international flair

Looking for a "best of" show? Don't miss the World Harmony Jamboree at the Montreal convention, to be held at 1:30 p.m. July 4, in the Bell Centre. This event has gathered momentum every year, and features both gold medal quartets and choruses from SPEBSQSA, Sweet Adelines International and Harmony Inc. The fast-moving show also presents the very best from our affiliates overseas. Imagine, Four Voices and A Cappella Gold on the same show with The Masters of Harmony and Toronto North Metro choruses. Like your barbershop with an Asian twist? Then you'll love seeing and hearing The Tokyo Barbers. Like surprises? Well ... we can't tell you everything!

To purchase tickets or to view the show lineup, visit the World Harmony Council web site at www.worldharmonyCouncil.org > World Harmony Jamboree. Tickets may also be purchased on the SPEBSQSA web site Special Events page. Each year the proceeds from this event form the lion's share of outreach activities by the World Harmony Council.

Register for the International Convention

To register for the 2003 International Convention June 29-July 6, 2003, Montreal, Quebec, call 800.876.7464 x8462 or go online at <http://www.spebsqsa.org/montreal/>

[Courtesy of Reed Sampson's Livewire Weekly News from the Barbershop Harmony Society, April 7, 2003.]

20 Week Club Winners

Date	No	Winner	Seller
12/10	219	Deana Higgs	D. Higgs
12/17	101	Murielle Rugg	D. Blouin
1/07	225	Carol Hathaway	E. Bechtel
1/14	136	Virginia Charlotte	D. Labrecque
1/21	129	Arletta Allen	A. Allen
1/28	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
2/04	119	Bob Goudreau	D. Brochu
2/11	231	Randy-Kay Lavalley	E. Bechtel
2/18	209	Rick Kotulak	J. Walter
2/25	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
3/04	43	Corrine Bissonette	J. Walter
3/11	65	John Huetz	J. Huetz
3/18	18	Walter Fisher	E. Bechtel
3/25	140	Pat Bates	G. Brunell
4/01	116	Andre Blouin	D. Blouin
4/08	74	Michael Blouin	D. Blouin



April 29 (Tuesday)	--	Show quartet contest/ audition
May 2 (Friday)	--	20 Week Club Banquet S. Burlington K of C
May 3 (Saturday)	--	Saratoga Springs Show 1:30 and 7:30 Featuring The Boston Common Contact - Bill Pupkis wrpupkis@nycap.rr.com
May 31 (Saturday)	--	55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices
June 6 (Friday)	--	Package Show Morrisville, VT
June 22 (Sunday)	--	Package Show Tunbridge, VT
June 25 (Wednesday)	--	Mini Retreat - Dan Signor 7:00 p.m. St. Francis School
June 29 - July 6	--	2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now!
July 11 (Friday)	--	National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30
July 27-August 3	--	Harmony College St. Joseph, Missouri Sign up now!
August 1 (Friday)	--	National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30
August 8-10 (Fri. - Sun.)	--	Harmony College NE See article this page