



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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66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

NOTE: Changes from hard copy are in RED!

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## District Contest next week! All you need to know is here

by Jerry Walter and Don Pierce

As all chorus members know, next weekend is the biggie for the Northeastern District, as we hold our annual Fall Convention and Contest once again in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The contest will be held in the Saratoga Springs City Center, the same building as the 1998 contest which is shared by the headquarters PRIME Hotel. Most of the Green Mountain Chorus members are staying at the Saratoga Downtowner, two blocks south of the City Center. The warm up facility is the Maple Avenue (US Rt 9) Middle School just up the road from the contest site.

The District Quartet contest will be held beginning Friday evening at 7 o'clock. Quartet Finals will be held Saturday evening. Warm up for quartets is also at the school. The District Chorus Contest and Preliminary for next year's International Convention and Contest in Louisville, Kentucky.

### Friday 10/24 Quartet Contest -

**7:00 p.m.** - Quartet Contest begins, see page 3 for Order of Appearance.

**9:50 p.m. (approx) CVQ sings 15th.** CVQ is not singing.

**10:30 10:00 p.m. (approx) Lake Effect Harmony sing 17th.**

### Saturday 10/25 GMC Chorus Contest -

**8:45 8:30 a.m.** - Annual Chorus Breakfast and fun session at Porreca's, a downtown Saratoga restaurant, see side bar for directions.

**10:30 10:15 a.m.** - Warm-up starts at our Maple Avenue Middle School dressing room.

**11:00 a.m.** - Chorus Contest Starts, see page 3 for Order of Appearance

**11:45 a.m. (approx)** - Leave dressing room for pictures and shuttle bus.

**12: 15 p.m. (approx)** - Arrive at Saratoga Springs City Center.

**12:30 12:15 p.m. (approx)** - On stage singing ~~eighth.~~ **seventh.**

Following the contest the Analysis and Review sessions will be held in the Grand Ball Room, all are invited..

### Other tidbits:

o GMC contest uniform will be white tuxedo shirt, black tuxedo trousers, paisley vest and bow tie, black socks and black shined shoes

o Pictures will be taken before the contest (at the warm-up location).

See **Contest** page 3

## Directions to every place - in Saratoga

Here are the directions you will need to attend activities next week in Saratoga Springs.

**To Saratoga** - The simplest and probably fastest: US 7 south to Vergennes, VT 22 south to Fair Haven, US 4 west through White Hall to Fort Anne, at the light turn right and take NY 149 to US 9 near Glens Falls, left on US 9 a few blocks to I 87 South, go to exit 15.

**To City Center parking lot** - From exit 15, right off exit, take NY 50 to fourth light, turn left on Rock Street, turn right at stop sign. Parking on both sides is free.

**To Maple Avenue School** - From exit 15, right off exit, Take NY 50 south to US 9, right on US 9 North go about one mile to school on left. From downtown Saratoga, take Broadway (US 9/NY 50) north to US 9 branches to the left, take US 9 one mile to school. **School opens at 5 p.m. on Friday.**

**To Downtowner** - From exit 15, right off exit, take NY 50 past fourth light, past City Center two blocks to Division Street on right, turn right and right into parking lot.

**To Grand Union** - As for the Downtowner, continue down Broadway (NY50) about 1.0 mile and the Grand Union is on the left at 120 S. Broadway.

**To Porreca's Restaurant** - From Downtowner, turn right on Broadway (NY 50), go south until NY 50 turns slightly right (Ballston Avenue), look for restaurant on left at 12 Ballston Avenue.

**From the Grand Union Motel**, go north (right) on S. Broadway to Lincoln Avenue, turn left and go about 0.25 mile to Balliston Avenue (NY50), turn right and look for restaurant on the right.

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## The Undertone

### 2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

A publication of the Burlington, Vermont Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a nonprofit, charitable and educational organization, published each Tuesday on which a chapter meeting is scheduled.

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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E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

### Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

President	John Villereé
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VP Music & Performance	Charlie Church
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#### Members at Large

Al Carpenter	Jerry Huetz
Dick Labrecque	
Serge Rizzo	Jerry Walter
Immediate Past-President	Gary Brunell

#### Additional Officers

Music Director	Greg Morrill
Assistant Directors	Chuck Laufer
	Pat Heise
Chorus Coaches	Gary Bolles
	Pat Heise
	Steve Janes
	Brian O'Leary
	Steve Plumb
	Dan Signor
	Karen Rourke
	Steve Tramack

Learning Tape/Quartet Coordinator [vacant]

2004 Show Chairman	Don Pierce
Harmony Foundation Chairman	Dale Higgs
Sunshine Chairman	Gary Brunell
Public Relations Chairman	Serge Rizzo
20 Week Club Chairman	Dick Labrecque
Uniform Chairman	Tif Crowell
Booking Agent	Al Carpenter

#### Section Leaders

Tenor- Chuck Laufer	Lead- Neil Cerutti
Baritone- Bob Cauley	Bass- Dave Stonecliffe
Librarian	John Zweighaft
Chorus Manager	Don Pierce
Package Show Producer	Charlie Church

**Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002**

**Al Carpenter**

**Division Barbershopper of the year 2000**

**Charlie Church**

## Music Team Report - October 2003

The Music Team last met on 10/2/03 at the State complex in Waterbury. Here are salient points from that meeting:

1. We noted that the Regional Contest / Prelims are early next year (March 19-20).
2. The Team held a postmortem on the Fall Retreat. We discussed various issues ranging from what Gary Bolles was trying to do with the chorus of the ballad, the fact that Gary liked the preparation the chorus had done, moving on to new areas to conquer (vowel shapes/sounds), and that Gary pointed at the Leads and Basses as culprits in the contest song tune-ups. We agreed that we need to do something to control the length of the lunch hour on Saturday and also keep guys from leaving at lunch. We discussed having Gary again next year (he is willing) and decided to address/finalize at the next long Music Team meeting (December).
3. We reviewed the status of songs for the 2004 Annual Show and feel encouraged by the progress to-date. Quartet song selection continues to progress as well. "Birth Of The Blues" was kicked-off on October 1. The VLQ status is encouraging; nine guys have signed up so far (but no Tenors), We gave "honcho" Dave Stonecliffe some staffing ideas with regard to Tenors and Basses..
4. The Team worked at length on the Fall Contest. Greg felt we were making progress toward our goal but did "retreat" some at the Retreat. We "cemented" the Picardy interpretation on Tuesday, 9/30. We need to conquer the interpretation so as to not affect the visuals as we didn't come out of the Retreat with 100% chorus buy-in. Section Leaders were queried for specific problems/comments. We discussed various song problem areas and traps. Greg will speak personally to guys with chronic note problems and ask that they not sing those notes. All should push the use of personal tape recorders at rehearsal. It would appear that we will have 37 singers on the contest stage (T = 4; L = 11, BR = 7; BS = 15).
5. Feature talent for the 2005 Annual Show - We discussed a bid received from Wheelhouse and will propose to the Board that it be accepted.
6. We discussed the various holiday season shows and issues of concern for the Music Team (song selection, directors, scripting, emcees, contracted sing-a-long and song sheets for same, sound/lights, quartet availability, etc.,
7. The Team is looking for ideas and thoughts on motivating the guys for the Fall Contest. Board member suggestions will be welcomed.
8. The date and time of next Music Team meeting will be Tuesday, November 4 at 6 p.m. at St. Francis School.

Respectfully submitted:

C. Church  
Music & Performance VP  
10/8/03

# Order of chorus appearance

## 2003 NED International Preliminary Chorus Contest

### Saratoga Springs, New York

#### 11a.m. Noon October 25, 2003

OOA Num.	Chapter Name	Plateau	Chorus Name	Director	2002 Score
1	K022 Lowell, MA	A	Gentlemen Songsters	Dan Washington	988
2	K046 Providence, RI	AAA	Narragansett Bay Chorus	Ted Doran	1332
3	K084 Poughkeepsie, NY	AA	Newyorkers	Rene Silverstein	959
4	K092 Manchester, CT	AA	Silk City Chorus	Jim Curtis, Todd Lamson	1103
5	K050 Hanover, NH	A	North Country Chordsmen	Dan Signor	983
6	K015 Portland, ME	AA	Downeasters	Michael Martin	1249
7	K048 Burlington, VT	AA	Green Mountain Chorus	Greg Morrill	1068
8	K005 Central, CT	A	Connecticut Yankee Chorus	Stephen Delehanty	1109
9	K033 Beverly, MA	AA	Northshoremen	Gene Anderson	
10	K025 Concord, MA	AA	Sounds of Concord	Karen Rourke	1169
+2	K012 Waterbury-Derby, CT	A	Valley Chordsmen		+022
11	K034 Scituate, MA	AA	South Shore Men Of Harmony	Donald Taylor	957
12	K058 Portsmouth, NH	A	Yankee Clipper Chorus	Jim Dodge	984
13	K038 Worcester, MA	AAA	Men of Song	Mark Goodney	1028
14	K072 Pittsfield, MA	A	Berkshire Hillsmen	Mike Joyce	1055
15	K063 Dartmouth, NS	AA	City of Lakes Chorus	Bill Smart	993
16	K056 Nashua, NH	AAA	Granite Statesmen	Steve Tramack	1446
17	K067 Saratoga Springs, NY	AAA	Racing City Chorus	Mike Nichols	1162

As the host chapter, Saratoga Springs had the choice of singing first, last, or in their drawn position. They chose to sing last.

The following qualified choruses have elected not to sing: Greater Montreal, Springfield, Keene, and all the Sunrise Division Choruses (except Dartmouth).

Plateaus are based on membership figures as of December 31, 2002.

AAA = 76 or more    AA = 41 - 75    A = 40 or fewer

## Order of Quartet appearance

### 2003 NED Quartet Contest

#### Semi-finals October 24, 2003

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Limelight        | 13. The Allard Project       |
| 2. Yankee Ingenuity | 14. Exchange Street          |
| 3. New Dimension    | 15. <del>EVQ</del> Scratched |
| 4. Applause         | 16. The Starliners           |
| 5. Jacks or Better  | 17. Sound Wave               |
| 6. SEEYA!           | 18. Scollay Square           |
| 7. Saratoga Sound   | 19. Lake Effect Harmony      |
| 8. Breakaway        | 20. Seventh Wave             |
| 9. South Side       | 21. Back Bay Four            |
| 10. Bourbon Street  | 22. Top Drawer Four          |
| 11. Saltwater Joys  | 23. Theatrix                 |
| 12. 24/7            | 24. Moments in Tyme          |

#### Contest from page 1

- o A shuttle bus will be provided between the school and contest site, Saratoga Springs City Center.

- o There will be **no stage curtain**; we will enter from stage right and exit stage left, six to eight sections of four step risers will be set-up with the ends at 8 feet from the edge of the stage.

- o Evaluation sessions with the contest judges will most likely be held in the auditorium after the contest - all are welcome to attend.

Section Leaders will be taking notes pertinent to their sections. For more information on the contest weekend, go to the District Web Site ([www.nedistrict.org](http://www.nedistrict.org)), click on Contests and then on the Saratoga button. There you will find a number of sections that will provide much information. The Fall Convention FAQ section may answer all you ever wanted to know about the convention in Saratoga.

# DIRECTOR'S

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## Good news, bad news!

by Greg Morrill, Music Director

In listening to my tape of our final run-throughs last week, I actually was pleasantly surprised. I did not think we had one of our stronger rehearsals last Tuesday with some new problems creeping in that I hadn't heard before. However, the run-throughs were better than I anticipated and that is the good news.

The bad news is that our performances still have those momentary lapses where we sing below our desired level. These stand out all-the-more as we bring our median level higher. And they are all a judge needs to hear to score us below the level we've set for a goal!

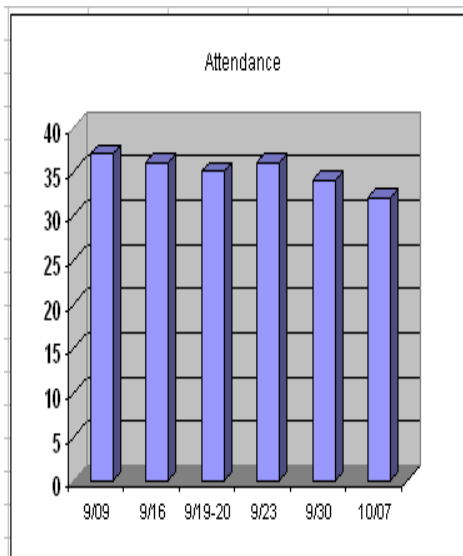
So how in the next two weeks can we eliminate those lapses?

First, we must recognize the effort and concentration it takes to perform at our best level for the approximately five minutes we'll be singing.

Second, use every breath you take in each song to: refresh your posture, refresh your face, and open your throat.

Third, identify where in each song you begin to lose focus and use that phrase as a reminder to redouble your effort.

Fourth, start visualizing the effect you



want our performance to have on the audience and then picture how you want to look as you perform the songs!

## A message from Harold!

Many thanks and sincere appreciation for the cards from the chorus as well as those from individual members. They have brought joy to what otherwise has been a rather long, arduous, frustrating and sometimes very difficult three month hospital stay in Montréal at The Montréal General Hospital.

While still in the hospital, and expect to be for some time to come, my overall situation has improved to the extent that last Thursday I was transferred back to the Brome Mississquoi Perkins hospital in Cowansville, which is a lot closer to home and much easier on Cam. I can sit up with assistance but still cannot stand or walk. Am working like the devil to rectify this situation but who knows how long it will take or what the future holds.

Visitors would not be unwelcome and if any of you happen to be in the area, and feel so inclined, I'm on the second floor, room 253.

Sorry that I can't make competition this time around. Understand that you've all been working very hard with the aim of coming back with a ribbon. Good Luck and knock their socks off!

Best wishes to you all.

Regards,  
Harold

=====

[Harold is suffering from a rare (two men in a million) disorder called Cushing's disease, caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland. Symptoms include weight gain, pain, fatigue and mood swings. Treatment can be by medication, radiation or surgery. Ed.]



- November 18 (Tuesday) -- Early Singout  
Ruggles House UVM  
S. Prospect St and Robinson  
Parkway, Burlington  
Warm up 6:30
- November 29 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble  
University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- November 30 (Sunday) -- Holiday Ensemble  
University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 6 (Saturday) -- Annual Holiday Show  
3 p.m. North Avenue Alliance  
Church, Burlington  
7 p.m. Hunger Mountain  
Christian Assembly,  
Waterbury Center.
- December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service  
Warm up 12:30
- December 13 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble  
University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 14 (Sunday) -- Vergennes Holiday Show  
2:00 p.m.  
Vergennes Opera House
- December 16 (Tuesday) -- First 20 Week Club  
Drawing
- December 20 (Saturday) -- Holiday Ensemble  
University Mall 2-5 p.m.
- December 23 (Tuesday) -- Caroling  
Place(s) to be determined  
  
2004
- January ? -- Installation Banquet
- January 31 (Saturday) -- Great Northern Harmony  
Workshop, Montréal  
with Uptown Sound
- February 14 (Saturday) -- Singing Valentines
- March 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Prelims, VLQ and  
Western Division  
Contests, Albany area
- April 17-17 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Regional Convention  
and Contest, Nashua, N.H.
- April 30 (Friday) -- 20 Week Club Banquet