

Bay Country Chorus

Meeting Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm
at the Historical Society Of Talbot County Auditorium
17 South Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Easton, Maryland

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

President's Message

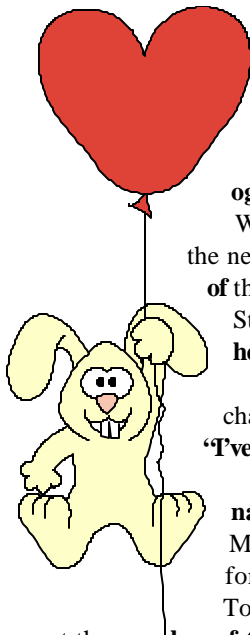
What is their name?

One of the most important things we as an organization need to do this year is gain **name recognition** for "The Bay Country Chorus." We do have a plan and we have started implementation. **Name recognition is our goal.**

When someone sees a photo of the chorus in the newspaper we want them to say, "I've **heard of** that chorus." When they see a poster in the St. Michaels Acme we want them to say, "I've **heard of** that singing group."

Then as our plan progresses we want it to change from, "I've **heard of** that chorus", to "**I've heard** that chorus sing and they are great."

Most everyone has **instant recognition of names** such as Coke, Pepsi, Toyota, or Microsoft. One of the very best companies for advertising their name and products is Toyota. The next time you see a Toyota ad



count the **number of times** the name Toyota is spoken and the number of times you see the name Toyota on a wall in the background or flash on the screen. Visually communicate, verbally communicate, then repeat it, repeat it, then show the name again and say the name again. The finishing touch is **when people buy a Toyota they find it is a great automobile!**

What we must strive for is to have the name **Bay Country Chorus instantly recognizable as a very good singing and performing chorus** by people in the counties of; Talbot, Dorchester, Caroline, Queen Anne, and Kent County Md.

In order to do this our chapter must do many things:

- With the help of Tom and June, perform and sing to a high quality. **This we are doing better all the time.**
- Perform throughout the mid-shore so people have a chance to hear us sing. **We will have 10+ performances this year.**
- Give our best no matter if the audience is 300 or only one couple. **This each individual must answer.**
- Keep our name in front of the public in as many ways as possible. **Bill Fuller is working on this.**
- Have a standardized logo that is easy recognized. On this the Brd. of Dir. reached agreement.
- Place recruitment posters in all five counties. We need each of you to help!
- Never perform anywhere without a sign or banner advertising

our chorus!

- Never perform anywhere without telling people, several times, who we are!
- Never perform without inviting people to come to our chapter meetings on Tuesday night. Invite them several times.
- Be proud you are a member of "The Bay Country Chorus" and that you sing Barber Shop songs.

At the present time we are working on getting signs and a banner that advertise, "Bay Country Chorus." We are ordering bumper stickers advertising our chorus. Our Public Relations V. P., Bill Fuller, is working very hard to get our name in front of the public as often as possible. Everyone will be asked to put a bumper sticker on each of the automobiles they own. We understand some of you will not because you are against bumper stickers.

Everyone will be asked to put up recruitment posters. **Remember to give Claude the locations.**

Barbershoppers please understand **we are only at the start** of gaining name recognition. The good news is that once we start to gain name recognition many things become easier. Selling show tickets will be easier. Recruiting members will be easier.

We must be proud of who we are. We must be proud of what we do. Name recognition is the name of the game when you have something to sell. Please understand we are selling ourselves and our music.

Carson Andrew, President

CHORUS REHEARSALS

The most vital area of Barbershop Singing - everything begins here. Whatever you do in rehearsal you'll do in a performance. This is where you learn music, choreography, plan and prepare for all events, and grow in all areas vocally, visually, musically and emotionally. The image you project for your chorus begins here. Although we consider this a "hobby", it's far more in the category of a professional than an amateur.

Discipline at rehearsals is important when thinking as a professional. Arrive on time, take your place, listen, apply, retain and practice the knowledge you receive from rehearsals, then it'll become easier to apply this knowledge under performance pressures. Give your undivided attention to the Director.

Don't hesitate to ask questions regarding lyrics, notes, choreography, etc. Most importantly, "**Come Prepared**"— **THEN** - when the spotlight is on and you are performing, rehearsal habits will come naturally and can be applied to any situation.

June Easton, Associate Director

SOME MORE THOUGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP

What drives the human psyche? What motivates us to sing? What motivates us to recruit? These are all questions, that by their very nature, call for an answer that should lead us to recruit new members. We are all prone to look forward to a better and more enjoyable time.

It has occurred to me that just possible we are searching for some "Magical Formula" to fill our ranks with an abundance of new barbershop members. I personally am not an avid follower of "Harry Potter" or "Lord Of The Rings", although I am sure some people may be. I do not look for "Pie in the sky". Just possibly, an appreciation of the "Pie" we have at hand here in our chorus could motivate us to increase our membership.

Do we really understand why we sing or rather why we like to sing? Could it be to satisfy a challenge to see if we can do it? Could it be because we enjoy listening to our own voices? Is it that we know singing with three other parts along with our own creates beautiful musical harmony pleasing to the ear? Is it because we are basically "Hams at heart". We enjoy listening to our own voice, or possibly a blending of many voices in Balanced Harmony formed in our unique style of Barbershop? Is it because we thrive on that truly magical responder, when we perform, called "Applause? Is it because we enjoy the company of others with like talents?

The Human Psyche is so diverse, what appeals to one may not appeal to another. When I joined the Chorus in Seaford, DE. About seven years ago, Ed Zimmerman mentioned to me he likes to sing barbershop because it relaxes him. All the daily cares are set aside. It is his time to relax and fully enjoy himself.

Dave Milhollan mentioned one morning at COTS School in Reston, VA. about five years ago, that the real "being" for him comes when you "Sing a song" or "Ring a chord" to the best of your ability, and near perfection is achieved. "That is a Pleasurable Moment", A Pinnacle and a Unique Accomplishment.

There are "Different Strokes For Different Folks" but basically all barbershoppers, I believe, enjoy their hobby. They like to sing, they like to harmonize. If we stop to think how much "Barbershop" really means to us and we gain a real solid love an appreciation for our "Hobby", we will automatically strive to recruit new members. Why? Because we want others to join us and enjoy our unique and satisfying hobby also.

"Bigger is not necessary Better", but I believe in this instance "Bigger is Better. We have something worthwhile to **SELL!** While many in our chorus really and truly try consistently to recruit new members there are those who take the task casually and take the approach "Let George Do It". Let us all make a concerted and individual effort to seek out new members. "**Our Hobby Depends On It**"

Let's Keep The Whole World Singing"
Joe Mueller, Membership VP

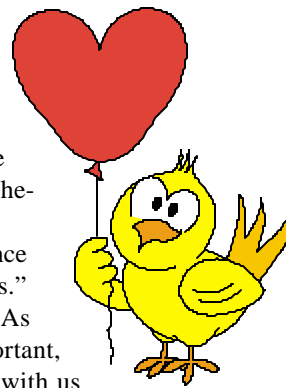
JANUARY GUESTS

Ed Langrell	Chuck Whitehead
Jim Blakely	Bill Hull

CHORUS MANAGER

I expect to have more performances in new locations this year. All ready we will be performing in two places, which we either have not sung in before or not in the past two years, The Church Hill Theatre which we have never performed, and in the Avalon Theatre which was our first home.

The Church Hill Theatre performance and the Avalon will both be "Concerts." The dress for both is tux with vest. As these 2 performances are so very important, I ask all members of the chorus to be with us for rehearsals!. The music is what we have sung before, nothing new at these two outings. **Please do not let your chapter down. Be a part of it.**



I have heard from the FISH Organization in Oxford and we will be performing there on June 19, 6 p.m. Following that, we will once again have dinner at Latitude 38, which we have done for many years. A great evening of fun, singing and being with our better-halves for dinner and song.

The Historic Society will be asking us to sing at their annual Garden Party. No date has been selected as yet. Also we will be asked to perform at one of Easton's, "Music In The Park" series. I have also been in contact with other places, soon as the details are worked out, it will be posted on the calendar board and Bulletin.

Sign-up sheets are very important. It helps the director know who will be present and for positions on the risers. These sheets are on the back table.

Other ventures are being looked into such as, singing together with a school chorus or choral group,. We are also looking into putting on a benefit show for the Avalon Foundation with three other groups such as a School Group, Gospel Choir Chorale Group . A Sunday performance such as this at the Avalon would "pack the house". It could be named "**Keep The Whole World Singing**".

Cliff Ely, Chorus Manager

POSTER PLACES

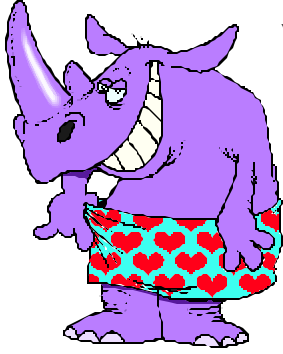
I made an announcement about making sure that we put posters with any news info we have such as our upcoming shows etc. our where they will be notices. Before our last show there were posters available and I'm sure that many of our members took some and posted them where they thought they would be effective. What we don't have is a listing of all these places so we can make sure we properly cover our target market area. I offered to put all these locations on computer and design a system to organize this effort. What a great way to reach the public, very effective and with very low cost.

What I need is the input from the members of the locations with addresses. Take the time to write these places on a sheet of paper and give them to me at chapter meetings. As of this date only 5 members have given me places and addresses.

Claude Maechling, Board Member

FROM THE PODIUM

EDITORIAL



Here we are in the month of February, 2002! Time flies --- when you're having fun! And I hope we are having fun!! To me, the most FUN I get from this wonderful hobby of ours is SINGING WELL and I hope that you share that desire with me. You hear me expound on this theme many times - I hope that I, and you, never get tired of that goal. I have stated my philosophy many times, but perhaps it bears repeating. It is to SING BETTER and I sincerely believe that each of us, re-

gardless of age, experience, ability, can SING BETTER, given some dedication, learning, and PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!! Did I forget to mention HARD WORK? Certainly all of these things go into the makeup of an accomplished singer. Perhaps I should also mention God-given talent. We all possess that although in varying degrees. Should a lack of any of these factors discourage any of us? Absolutely not! Regardless of where each of us stands on the "food chain" of singing ability, we all possess the means to IMPROVE as long as we are prepared to dedicate the time and effort to doing so. I should also remind you of something else that I have been driving at for some time now, and that is that singing requires physical effort - it is somewhat of an athletic event, requiring one to put forth that physical effort every time one takes a breath to begin another lyrical phrase. Every song takes much physical effort - at the end of an evening of singing we should all experience some tiredness, even though we may be "wired" from having such a FUN experience for a full evening. I know when I get home from chapter meeting, I cannot go to bed right away! Too much music is going through my brain and it won't shut down!!

Back to the word mentioned earlier, FUN is the result when one applies himself to understanding the vocal drills that we do, understanding word sounds, diphthongs, vowel targets, etc., and applies all of that to the music. I think we all understand that the pleasure we get from our performances is the result of all that effort. I really appreciate all the effort that all of you expend toward that goal.

We continue to work toward the performance on Feb. 16th and the concert at the Avalon on April 7th. The program for each will essentially be the same and it was published in the last newsletter that was disseminated. There may be some minor changes as we progress through the weeks of preparation but what you saw is what we will be doing. I'm also trying to decide just what songs we will do in the Atlantic Division contest in May. We will be talking about this subject as the weeks go on. I am excited about the prospect of the number of performances that Chorus Manager Cliff Ely is lining up for us. It is going to be a great year!

Let's continue to have FUN!!

Tom

It is time for our "newsletter" to become known as the chapter's "**Bulletin**". Therefore beginning with the March edition, it will have a name. Up to this time it has been Bay Country Chorus with no "logo" or such.

I propose we have a contest to name our **Bulletin**. All chapter members (and wives, because they are a great part of the chapters activities) are asked to write down or relate to ye editor their suggested name. **The names will be read off at the first meeting in March.** All in attendance will cast a vote for the future editions of our Bulletin. So put on your thinking caps and come up with a great name for our Bulletin.

Snow Birds

At this time of the year many are going South for a vacation, etc. If you would like the newsletter and other items such as new music, tapes, etc. sent you you while you're away, please send me the address where you will be residing. We will forward the items to you while you are away

Just another service from a chapter who cares for it's members.

From the Secretary's Desk

HARMONY COLLEGE at Salisbury State University is coming up this year on June 13 - 16. Some new courses have been added including Song Leading, Movement on Stage (Let's Dance), Advanced Music Theory (#2, 3, and 4), Advanced Sight Reading, and Sound System Basics. These are in addition to the usual courses that have been offered over the years. Tuition for the weekend (3nights/6 meals) is \$155 if paid by May 16. More details are to be found in the February Mid'l Antics which just came out.

The MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet contest prelims will be held in our division at Division Contest, May 17 - 18. This category of Barbershop singing is for young men who want to compete but may have difficulty truly understanding the style; and it will be up to us initiated barbershoppers to help them out not only in education in barbershop style, but in selection of appropriate music for their competition. Last year, because of our efforts, none of the quartets was disqualified at the District Preliminary level. Your secretary has rules, entry forms, and a long list of suitable songs available for the CBQ competition.

The WOODSHED WEEKEND is coming up February 22 - 23 at the Holiday Inn Select in Timonium. This is an annual affair and provides a forum for competition among woodshedders. You register in your voice part and are randomly selected to sing with three other parts in competition. Judges select the winners at each level and as the weekend progresses eventually winners are crowned. If you like to woodshed, this is your weekend! Information may be obtained from Bob Seay at "woodshed@dundalk.org".

Tim Herbert

Board Of Directors

President	Carson Andrew	822-1745
Past President	Bill Hosker	476-5722
Membership	Joe Mueller	673-7647
Music	Dave Milhollan	822-7407
Public Relations	Bill Fuller	745-2514
Chorus Manager	Cliff Ely	770-8262
Secretary	Tim Herbert	745-3847
Treasurer	Dave Milhollan	822-7407
Members at Large	Claude Maechling	822-2535
	Bill Johnstone	943-3320



Appointed Positions:

Librarians	Bill Johnstone Jim Butler Bob Marsh
Fellowship	Bob Marsh
Program / Timekeeper	Bill Hosker
Greeter	Kent Merkle
50/50	Bob Marsh
Riser Chairman	Claude Maechling
News Editor	Cliff Ely
Historian	Cliff Ely

Section leaders:

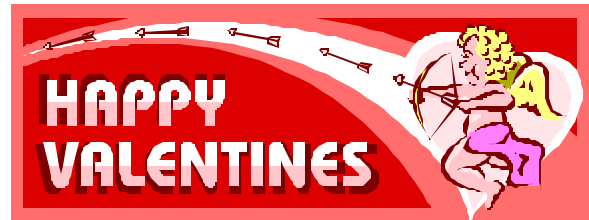
Lead	- Tom Ewald / Carson Andrew
Tenor	- Andre Marechal
Bass	- Dave Milhollan
Baritone	- Ed Zimmerman

Bay Country Chorus
Cliff Ely, Editor
P. O. Box 2249
Easton, MD 21601



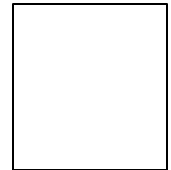
Calendar

February 13-14	Singing Valentines
February 16	Performance, Church Hill Theater, 8 pm
March 8-9	Mid-Atlantic Quartet Prelims
April 7	Concert, Avalon Theatre, 2 PM
April 13	Ocean View Chapter Show
April 13	Salisbury Chapter Show
May 17-18	Atlantic Division Competition, Wilmington, DE
June 13-15	Harmony College, Salisbury, MD
June 19	Performance, Oxford FISH, 6 PM
July tba	Performance, Music In The Park, Easton
October 4-5	Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention, Wildwood, NJ
December 3	Annual Awards Dinner & Christmas Party



Society Vision Statement

The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities.



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