



**"HARMONY
IN MOTION"**

The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

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Chordsmen at the Theatre

Photos by Jason J. Molyet ~ New Journal Photographer

By: Mark Caudill ~ Staff reporter for Mansfield News Journal

Editor:: this article appeared in the Mansfield News Journal on Thursday, March 17, 2016. The Fun Center Chordsmen extend their thanks to Mark, Jason and the staff at the News Journal for their continued support.

The Fun Center Chordsmen are bringing a few friends along to their Saturday performance at the Renaissance Theatre.

The men's a cappella chorus that draws members from Richland and a number of surrounding counties will put on its 42nd annual spring show with help from the Singing Buckeyes, a barbershop chorus.

"It's going to be unique," **Trevor Garrabrant**, director of the Fun Center Chordsmen, said of the fundraiser. "To get all that put together is a rarity and a chore. We're each going to do a 25-minute set. Our portion is going to be Broadway-themed."

In the second half of the show, more guests will take the stage. **Spotlight**, a quartet that finished second at a recent international seniors competition, will perform. In addition, the Fun Center Chordsmen and the Singing Buckeyes will team up for what Garrabrant calls a "mega-chorus."

"We have a lot of dual members," he said. "We're going to do another combined show in Columbus in May with the Singing Buckeyes."

Tom Webb is one of those dual members. He said he enjoys the singing and the camaraderie.

"It's invigorating," Webb said. "I look forward to it every week."

Webb said about half of the singers don't read music. As for himself, he says he does most of his practicing in his car.

Dan Crow has been in the Fun Center Chordsmen for four years. He has been a Mansfield firefighter/paramedic for 10 years.

Crow said he was looking for a hobby in town. Singing allows him to decompress from his difficult job. "It makes you feel good," Crow said. "It's a good stress-reliever."

He said a friend recommended he join the Chordsmen. "I went to a rehearsal and found that it was something I enjoyed doing," Crow said. Crow said he's especially looking to Saturday's performance. "It should be a good variety of different acts," he said.

There are about 50 on the Fun Center Chordsmen roster. Around 30 are active.



RF Miller, Dave Kracker, Tom Webb and Jim Fry practice the choreography for "There's no Business like Show Business," the opening song in the show.

Many of them gathered Monday at First Congregational Church for practice. They went through a series of exercises — both vocal and physical — before the singing really got going.



Trevor Garrabrant enthusiastically directs the Chordsmen during the practice for the show.

"These guys work hard," Garrabrant said. "They've improved so much."

Garrabrant's wife, **Megan**, will be the soloist on "Lida Rose" from "The Music Man." She was the only woman at Monday's practice.

Most of the singers are quite a bit older than **Trevor Garrabrant**, but he doesn't mind. "I've been singing with this group since I was 22," he said. "It's like having a bunch of uncles and grandpas at every rehearsal." 🎵



**COME
SING
WITH
US!**



Shopping Kroger keeps us healthy

By: Lorin Weaver ~ Treasurer



The Fun Center Chordsmen enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program on August 11, 2011. This rewards program is for non-profit organizations only. Those shoppers who have a Kroger Plus card can register the card to be assigned to the Fun Center Chordsmen.

Each time a card holder registered to the Chordsmen shops at Kroger, a portion of the total spent is given back to the chapter every three months. Chapter members are encouraged to make sure they have a Kroger Plus card and it's registered to the Fun Center Chordsmen and to ask friends and family to support the Chordsmen by doing the same.

A new Kroger Plus card can be obtained at any Kroger Customer Service Center. Then it can be enrolled to the Chordsmen by going on line to www.krogercommunityawards.com and click on Columbus, Ohio and then click on enroll. The number for the Chordsmen NPO number is 82228. You can also enroll by calling 800-837-4483.

Every April 1 or after, the card enrollment must be renewed by going on line or calling 800-837-4483.

Yearly return from the Kroger Rewards program can vary from more than \$350 to as little as \$100 depending on the number of Kroger cards enrolled to the Chapter and the number of times it's used when shopping at Kroger.

It's really simple; get a Kroger Plus card, enroll it to the Fun Center Chordsmen (NPO 82228), shop at Kroger and use the card at check out. It helps keep us financially healthy. 🎵





Combined chorus of the Fun Center Chordsmen (Black Jackets) under the direction of Trevor Garrabrant and The Singing Buckeyes (White Jackets) under the direction of Chad Wulf, perform on the stage of the Renaissance Theatre

Photos by Kristie Owens

Double the Fun (Two for the price of one)

By: Jim Frye ~ President



The 2016 annual show, "Double the Fun," is now in the history books and will be remembered as a truly special day.

For two chapters to come together and share the stage in a singing brotherhood bond, surely guaranteed special musical moments. The vision of two chapter music teams came to fruition March 19th and the large audience was treated to some outstanding a cappella singing.

This isn't to say that the day didn't come without a few hiccups, but as they say on Broadway, "the show must go on".

I received an email from **Dave Kracker** at 8:10am the morning of the show, stating one member of the guest quartet **Spotlight** had been admitted into the hospital for immediate surgery related to a staph infection. The Buckeyes were going to try to find a replacement quartet, but until then the FCC quartets were called into action

and asked to prepare two or three more songs just in case.

Well, good news came pretty quickly as **Top Shelf** agreed to step up and fill the void. After the performance of **Top Shelf**, the two choruses were to take the stage. The combined chorus needed time to form up during the last two songs of the quartet set. During the



Top Shelf
John Dedrow (Br) Richard Brooks (B)
JT Snyder (L) Jason Wulf (T)

before show rehearsal, when **John Dedrow** was asked what the last two songs in the set were going to be, he commented something like, "we're not sure what songs we're singing yet." Talk about true performance troopers, **Top Shelf** stepped up at the last minute and saved the day. According to many in the audience, they put on a spectacular 25 minute show.

Upon completion of the show there were a few things yet to do. After greeting the audience, striking the set, and loading the risers in the trailer, we headed to Ed Pickens' for our

Double the Fun, con't

Afterglow. The fun and fellowship continued! Prior to the Invocation by **Stan Popp**, the Emcee acknowledged those who made the show come together. And to no one's surprise, the top show ad sales again came from **Walt Jewett**. Total ad sales from everyone was \$8,300. All the show program coordination between the chapter and the printer was done by **Ron Rosser**.

As usual, it was difficult for the Emcee to select which table goes first for the buffet line. It just so happens that the director and one of the assistant directors were seated at the same table toward the back. So knowing that "suck up gets noticed," that table went first, followed by all the rest. Two lines down the super good buffet line saw plates piled high with food consistent with Ed Pickens reputation.

Dane and Damion, a duo of Trombone (Damion) and keyboard (Dane) played a variety of songs to provide background music during dinner.

After everyone had time to finish their meal, it was time for the entertainment. As would normally be the case, the guest quartet would entertain. But **Top Shelf** had changed their plans at the last minute that morning and had to get back to Columbus.

So all three chapter quartets performed starting with **Bravada** followed by **Good Company** and rounding out the threesome was **Home Edition**. From great food to awesome quartet singing, all in attendance were entertained and left well fed.

The planning for each "Glow" starts at the end of each year's event. Thanks to **Lee Cook** and **Terry Loughman** for organizing and coordinating the Afterglow again this year!

So, we cannot rest on our laurels, but turn the page and begin preparing for our 2017 annual show.

Well done my brothers in song! 🎵

Things you didn't know about your website

The Chordsmen are not the only ones using our website. Here are the top three in just a few of categories we're tracking on the use of the website. Thanks to **Jim Frye** and Google Analytics.

Countries accessing the website

United States – 89.9%

China – 4.04%

United Kingdom – 2.02%

Cities represented in accessing

Mansfield - 13.13%

Mount Vernon – 9.09%

Galion – 5.56%

Computer Browser Used

Chrome – 37.88%

Safari – 28.28%

Firefox – 18.18%

Computer Operating System Used

Windows – 51.52%

iOS – 15.66%

Macintosh – 15.66%

Mobile Operation System Used

iOS – 63.27%

Android – 30.61%

Windows – 6.12%

Device Used To Access in Last 30 Days

Desktop – 75.25%

Smartphone – 20.20%

Tablet – 4.55%

Most Popular Smartphones Accessing

Apple iPhone – 40.82%

Samsung Galaxy S5 – 8.16%

Motorola Droid Ultra – 4.08%

How Users Connected to

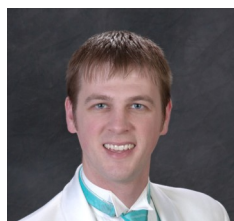
www.funcenterchordsmen.com

Direct URL – 32.00%

Google Search – 24.66%

Social – 28.57%

Directly Speaking



By: Trevor Garrabrant ~ Director

Gentlemen, you have heard me ask a few times to start recording at rehearsals. Some of you have started!!! That is awesome. Let's all commit to recording during rehearsals.

I plan on recording the chorus more during rehearsals. This will allow me to hear things I don't always hear while waving my arms. I can go back and truly analyze our sound. I know, some of you are thinking "oh great." It will also let me hear what tools worked to improve our sound and what tools did not.

When you record at rehearsals, during playback you're able to hear notes and rhythms. The ones that sound great and the ones that need a little tweaking. It will also give you a chance to hear which of the tools worked for you.



The best time to record is when we first start a song on the agenda. I normally like to run it top to bottom unless stated otherwise. This will give you a full recording. The second best place, maybe the more important of the two, is while we are breaking the song down working on vowel targets, tuning, rhythms, etc. Try to record in small segments, that way it won't seem so hard to go back and listen. If you record 2.5 hours of stuff, then you almost have to commit to 2.5 hours to listen to it. So smaller segments are better.

The results... FCC takes itself to the next level. Our default is raised. We have fun singing music at a higher level. People will notice and will want more. So I am committing to recording more, will you? 🎵

Talk to someone you don't know....Today!

By: RF Miller ~ VP Marketing and PR

The other day I went with my granddaughter, Megan, to renew her driver's license. After taking a number and waiting a while, Megan's number was called.

The lady at the DMV that helped us was very pleasant. She had a name tag on so I knew her first name. At the appropriate time I said "Hollie, does your husband like to sing?" She replied enthusiastically, "As a matter of fact he does." "He was singing in the car just this morning."



I gave her an invitation card to attend the guest night on May 9 and her comment was, "I'll make sure he knows about it." She was excited to know about the Fun Center Chordsmen.

We had a brief conversation about our chorus. Brief, because there were several others waiting for their number to be called. I just had time to find out her last name but had to cut the conversation short as she called the next number. I don't know her husband's name.

Will he show up? I don't know. But one thing is for sure. If I hadn't asked the question, I know he wouldn't come.

Have the courage to talk to folks you don't know!

Not everyone will be interested in what you have to say. But you will never know unless you ask. 🎵



Coming to terms in Good Company

By: Tom Webb ~ Tenor



As of this writing Good Company Quartet has three full length performance gigs lined up for the month of May and one killer hour and a half gig scheduled for late August.

For the past year we have managed to keep busy with performances like these, even to the point of being asked to come back a second and third time to a couple of venues. It begs the question what are we doing right? The answer may surprise you, because I believe it has even surprised us.

For a large part of our eight year existence we have worked to improve our sound, sync, and whole host of other issues that have kept us from becoming the type of quartet we all thought we could be; a solid B level quartet.

We have been told on various occasions that we were four guys performing individually in a quartet, where we should be performing as one voice. To say such comments bothered us would be an understatement. How we go about fixing that situation would be another thing altogether. Let's just say we've tried darn near everything.

Sometime before the spring show last year we decided that the one thing we needed to do most in order to even have a chance at being successful, or good for that matter, was to be prepared. Call it an epiphany or moment of truth, but we had crashed and burned on more than one occasion and it was time to do something about it. So, keeping with the KISS principle we broke things down into the simplest and most honest of equations. Preparation offers the best chance for success.

So for the spring show we prepared like never before, individually and collectively. Words and notes, notes and words. Matching voices, matching

vowels, breath support and letting Lee lead. The results were what we believe was our best show performance to date. Eight Days A Week went as well as we could expect and Blue Velvet became our song. We were told by any number of folks that we "nailed it". Ever since then we have made it paramount that before we put any song out before an audience, we would be prepared to do so. No more winging it. No more what the heck let's give it a shot. Preparation is everything.



Along the way we have also come to terms with a few other things. We are a senior quartet, period. We are not Vocal Spectrum or Max Q. We are not a competition quartet, although we might go to com-



petition again sometime just to see where we measure against other quartets.

We are not even close to being perfect, so we just try to do our best. We

are seniors and we all have senior moments, so rather than worry and fret about when those moments will come, we have learned to embrace them and make them a part of our "shtick."

Most of all we are having fun. Our rehearsals are full of laughter with a good measure of hard work thrown in so we are indeed prepared for whatever comes our way. And that fun has carried over into our performances. We are more relaxed, and willing to share our fun with our audiences. The 125 ladies we sang for at the annual Child Conservation League meeting are a testimony to that sharing. What a performance that was.

Whatever happens from here on, we believe Good Company is the best company its ever been. Because we are prepared we're ready for any opportunity that comes our way. And if we have a senior moment, we're prepared for that too! 🎵



Wedding Bells ***cause Bravada to sing love songs***

Bravada was honored to be asked by **Terry and Gloria Loughman** to sing during the wedding of their daughter **Kelli** to **Michael Hayes**. The wedding was Saturday April 2, at the Ontario United Methodist Church in Ontario, Ohio.

At two different times in the ceremony we sang a love song to the couple. During the lighting of the Unity Candle we sang to Kelli, "It's You" from the Music Man..

The Officiant of the wedding, the **Rev. Peg Welch**, in her premarital counseling, had Kelli and Michael write a love letter to each other, and seal it in an envelope. They were to read them the night before the wedding. Our second song, "Love Letters," fit in perfectly.

Bravada had sung for weddings before, but normally at the reception. This time, we were privileged to be a part of the ceremony. 🎵

Ambassadors of Song and Presidents Council

Thanks to the following members who support the Harmony Foundation and the Chapter.

Brandt, Dan & Karen
Cook, Lee
Crow, Dan & Carla
Kracker, Dave & Diane
Miller, RF and Diane
Popp, Stan & Barb
Rosser, Ron & Helen
Rumas, Chris
Smeltz, Doug & Shelley
Van Hesteren, Bruce & Della
Weaver, Lorin & Judy
Webb, Tom & Joyce

Where does your performance default fit

By: RF Miller

I'm sure Trevor has lost count how many times he has had to teach the same thing over and over. The performance default we strive for seems to take a step backwards, for many of us, when we step on the risers. Our performance default will fit into one of these four categories. Where do you fit?

Regardless of our current level of competence, level four must be our goal. To perform correctly without thinking about it.

1. Unconscious incompetence

You don't know what you don't know. The individual does not understand or know how to do something and does not necessarily recognize the deficit.



2. Conscious incompetence

You know what you don't know. Though the individual does not understand or know how to do something, he or she does recognize the deficit.



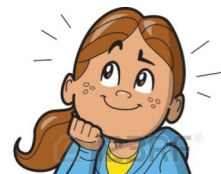
3. Conscious competence

You know what you know. The individual understands or knows how to do something. However, demonstrating the skill or knowledge requires concentration.



4. Unconscious competence

You don't have to think about what you know. The individual has had so much practice with a skill that it has become "second nature" and can be performed easily. As a result, the skill can be performed while executing another task.



As far as our performance in the chorus is concerned, the more we strive to reach the unconscious competence level, the better we become as a performing unit. . 🎵

Are you having a problem finding a guest to bring to rehearsal? Well then read on my friend as we let you in on

By: Jim Frye ~ President

THE INNER SECRETS OF A VETERAN BARBERSHOP RECRUITER:

- Nobody, in the history of the world, ever walked up to a stranger and said, "Do you know any good groups I can sing with?" You have to invite them."
- Potential singers are usually worried if they are good enough to sing with us while we are usually worried if we are good enough to invite potential singers into our group.
- The majority of male singers don't read music... they just follow the notes up and down.
- Our music is our best advertisement.
- The busiest people are the best recruits; they're doers!!
- Don't oversell; your only job is to get them there the first night - Let the chorus sell itself.
- International, Contest, District or Chapter "stuff" is meaningless to the new recruit. Sell good music and fellowship.
- Young guys want to know others their age participate.
- A good speaking voice is sometimes a clue.
- Very few guys will come by themselves the first night, either escort them or suggest they bring a friend with them.
- Don't talk dues. They'll ask when they're ready.
- If a guy is sincerely interested, he'll be back. Don't badger him! His actions will tell you. Don't be pushy.
- As a general rule, recruiting "old barbershoppers" is a waste of time. Sell them a show ticket. If they want to come back, they will.
- Hang with your recruit at meetings. Make sure he meets the guys, gets music and, most importantly, is NEVER LEFT ALONE!
- Don't oversell or undersell barbershop music. Most young guys have no idea what it is, so it's no big deal either way. Sell the "all male" aspect when they ask, "what kind of music do you sing?" ... The answer is "all kinds", which is true. However, the best answer is to give them a practice tape and say. .. "Listen to this".
- Men who have sung in organized groups are usually our best bets. If the guy is over 50 and has never sung organized music, the odds are pretty long on him being able to do it. There are always exceptions.
- Never underestimate our music's ability to hook somebody.
- Don't make excuses for your group.
- Since the chorus is growing, reassure the recruit that there are other new men just starting.
- You have to be willing to go beyond your immediate circle to find new singers.
- **You may have to ask ten or more guys to find a singer. Don't stop on number nine!**



From the Board walk

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



The Mansfield Chapter board of directors met on March 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

- The February board minutes were approved and the February Treasurer's report was received

as submitted.

- **Jim Foley** had passed his audition and submitted his application for membership. Jim's membership was approved by the board.
- The annual financial audit and review is to be completed by **Dan Noe** and **Lorin Weaver** on March 22.
- The updated Membership Information Booklet was presented.
- VP Membership, **Ed Farrar**, requested a special guest night for Monday, May 9 with emphasis on total meeting agenda being directed to the guests. Board approved.
- Chorus Manager, **Dan Noe**, reported on the scheduled performances.
 - Altrusa ~ April 23
 - Eastern Star ~ May 16
 - Waterford ~ May 19
 - Northmor High School ~ June 11
- Next Board meeting schedule for April 11 at Southside Christian Church. 🎵



Point to Ponder

An Editorial

It's no secret that we tend to fall into our internal *default* setting when we begin to perform. What is, or what should be, our *default* setting. It should be all that Trevor is teaching us!



I'll share with you a process that I've taught others, that will help you set your *default* where you want it to be. Now I know there will be some who read this and chalk it up to sheer nonsense and will disregard it entirely. I feel sorry for you if you're one of those. I can assure you that this process works...it's been proven many times before.

Each of us are blessed with two levels of our minds. We have a *conscious (objective)* or rational level and a *sub-conscious (subjective)* irrational level. What's the difference and why is it important? You think with your conscious mind and whatever you habitually think, sinks into your subconscious mind. Your subconscious mind is the seat of your emotions and is the creative mind. If you think you can, you will. If you think you can't, you won't.

The main point to remember is once the subconscious mind accepts an idea, it begins to execute it. The law of your mind is this: You will get a reaction or response from your subconscious mind according to the type of thoughts or ideas you continue to hold in your conscious mind. In other words, you become what you think about.

Your conscious mind is the reasoning mind. It is that part of your mind that makes choices. Your subconscious mind accepts what is impressed upon it...what you consciously believe.

So if you think (*believe*) you can or if you think you can't...either way, you're right. You've heard the expression *if you tell a lie often enough, you come to believe it*. Well that's just the subconscious mind responding to what you've been saying.

When you keep telling yourself that you can and will do the moves correctly, sing the right notes and put body and facial compliment into your singing...then you will for sure. Your subconscious mind will make it happen. 🎵

2016 Chapter Leadership

President ~

Jim Frye

Exec. VP ~

Stan Popp

Music Director ~

Trevor Garrabrant

Assistant Directors ~

Jim Frye

Dave Kracker

Chorus Coach ~

Vacant

VP Music & Performance ~

Trevor Garrabrant

VP Chapter Development ~

Ed Farrar

VP Marketing & PR ~

R.F. Miller

VP YIH ~

Dave Kracker

Secretary ~

Lee Cook

Treasurer ~

Lorin Weaver

Immediate Past President ~**Board Members at Large:**

Bob Gibson

Terry Loughman

Mike Craze

Mitch Gale

*The Chordsmen Chronicle is the official bulletin of the
Fun Center Chordsmen.*

Editor: R. F. Miller (RFMiller1@gmail.com)

***“It’s great to be a
barbershopper in
*Mansburg, Ohio”
(*Mansfield)***

2016 Man of Note honor roll

New Member	Sponsor	# of MON
Jim Foley	R.F. Miller	12

Plenty of room for your name



Chordsmen Quartets *(alpha order & year founded)*

**Bravada** (2001)

Jim Frye (T)

Trevor Garrabrant (L)

Dan Crow (B)

R.F. Miller (Br) (419) 884-2441 (contact)

Chordially Yours (2004)

Gayle Ray (T)

Mitch Gale (L)

Stan Popp (B) (419) 756-0098 (contact)

Frank DeWitt (Br)

Good Company (2008)

Tom Webb (T)

Lee Hull (L)

Mike Craze (B)

Chris Rumas (Br) (419) 886-3163 (contact)

Home Edition (1991)

Jim Frye (T) (419)-989-9895 (contact)

Jerry Starrett (L)

Bill Herdman (B)

Dave Kracker (Br)

**BARBERSHOPPING
CAN BE FUN!**