



**"HARMONY  
IN MOTION"**

# *The Chordsmen Chronicle*



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

Volume 41 Issue 7 ~ July 2016



## *Happy Fourth of July*



We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

### **So what did happen on July 4, 1776?**

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy

handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.)

It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original 150—200 printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

In contrast, we celebrate Constitution Day on September 17th of each year, the anniversary of the date the Constitution was signed, not the anniversary of the date it was approved.

If we'd followed this same approach for the Declaration of Independence we'd be celebrating Independence Day on August 2nd of each year, the day the Declaration of Independence was signed! 🎵



## Fun Center Chordsmen open Miss Ohio 2016 competition

The Fun Center Chordsmen men's a cappella chorus performed the National Anthem for the opening of the Miss Ohio competition on Thursday night June 16th. There were 20 contestants looking to capture the crown of Miss Ohio 2016.



At 7:25 PM, the Color Guard from Rickenbacker Air Force Base marched down the center isle of the theatre, took center stage and posted the nations colors as the Chordsmen stood at attention on stage right. The Chordsmen, directed by **Trevor Garrabrant**, then sang the National Anthem.

The week long Miss Ohio pageant and competition has been held in Mansfield and the Renaissance Theatre for many years. This year, the Chordsmen chorus was asked to perform the National Anthem to officially begin the three day competition.

This was the culmination of three hours of preparation beginning with a sound check at the theatre at 4:00. Many of the chorus then transitioned to the MVP Lounge for an early dinner.

And the rains came! During the sound check the stage manager for the Miss Ohio event said "it never rains on the Miss Ohio nights." She says that between claps of thunder. The rain came and went from 4:30 on. The Chordsmen had to plan getting to their 6:30 warm-ups at the Holiday Inn next door to the theatre and then back to the theatre, between rain events. They got a little damp on the outside but kept their high spirit on the inside.



It was indeed an honor to present the National Anthem for this event. The Chordsmen have members who are veterans having served in the Air Force, Army, Marines and the Navy. In this community, it is well known that one of the most enthusiastic group of veteran supporters is the Fun Center Chordsmen. Several times a year they perform at events honoring the veterans.

Although this event wasn't designed to honor veterans, the Chordsmen are proud to sing the Star Spangled Banner anytime for any occasion. 🎵



## ***It was true then and true now***

By: Steve Kovach ~ Former Chordsmen Director

This article appeared in the Chordsmen Chronicle in February, 2002. Written by Steve Kovach, the baritone in the International Silver Medalists Quartet, Uptown Sound and director of the Chordsmen from 2001 to 2010. This article is as true today as it was in 2002. ~*Editor*

The following document has been used in the JAD Top Gun for many years. It explains what it takes to be a champion. I have adapted this to reflect what and who we are---or could be.

### **A Chordsmen rehearsal focuses on developing a "Champion."**

- ♦ Chordsmen have attitudes and perspectives very different from everyone else.
- ♦ Chordsmen expect things of themselves that most of us would never dare.
- ♦ Chordsmen rehearse and master their craft in ways that most of us have never tried.

### **A Chordsmen rehearsal redefines the expectations of both the group and the individual.**

- ♦ Chordsmen expect nothing less than perfection from each singer.
- ♦ Chordsmen expect each individual to be responsible for preparedness and perfection.
- ♦ Chordsmen expect that each performance will be stunning.
- ♦ Chordsmen expect "standing O's" in every performance, which demands risk-taking.

### **A Chordsmen rehearsal raises the bar on individual responsibility.**

- ♦ Chordsmen singers must know how to make every performance fabulous.
- ♦ Chordsmen singers use rehearsal to learn and refine both perfection and stardom.
- ♦ Chordsmen singers don't waste rehearsal time on remedial techniques, but own them.
- ♦ Chordsmen singers make the ensemble great only by demonstrating greatness themselves.

### **A Chordsmen rehearsal teaches the proper focus on performance skills.**

- ♦ Chordsmen learn, in rehearsal, to recognize when they're wonderful, and when they're not.
- ♦ Chordsmen learn, in rehearsal, both how to recover and how to raise the level.
- ♦ Chordsmen know that "peaking" is no better than a "coin-flip"...standing "O's" must be rehearsed.

### **What a Chordsmen rehearsal is not.**

- ♦ A Chordsmen rehearsal is...not...about winning a contest.
- ♦ Chordsmen can not control what other groups do.
- ♦ Chordsmen can not control the abilities or tastes of Judges. Chordsmen can only control what they do.
- ♦ Chordsmen know that, if they are wonderful, winning audiences or contests takes care of itself.

### **A Chordsmen rehearsal is not about elitism, or about not being a hobby anymore, or about not being fun!**

- ♦ Chordsmen *didn't* join to be mediocre singers, and you didn't either.
- ♦ Chordsmen *don't ever* enjoy mediocre singing, and you don't either.
- ♦ Chordsmen have fun struggling and achieving, just like you do, in the magic arena we call a "hobby."
- ♦ Chordsmen learn that "quality" is a dirty word, *only* if we burn out, never having achieved it!

### **The expected results from a Chordsmen rehearsal experience**

Commit to a championship attitude

Have individual responsibility for developing your own inner champ

Accept only perfection from yourself

Make every rehearsal a preparation for your own personal championship

Perform, at all times, with the attitudes and techniques of a champion

***Here's to working hard, having fun, making great sound, and being champion Chordsmen!***





# Preparation (not H) is the key to our success

By: Jim Frye ~ Chapter President

One thing that you can regularly count on each week is our chapter meeting on Monday nights. Another thing that ought to be important to us is our individual preparation for these rehearsals. The saying "We're only as strong as our weakest link" is surely applicable to our ensemble, and, even to the top choruses in BHS.

So, what are our responsibilities as members of the Chordsmen? Let me list a few and you determine if "the shoe fits."

- Each member should attend every chapter meeting and performance as our schedules permit. When not available for chorus practice or a performance, please advise your section leader or one of the directors prior to the event.
- Each member should download and print their sheet music, along with learning tracks. For those not able to do this, please find a member who can help get your copies.
- Each member should spend time **outside** of Monday night rehearsal time practicing chorus music currently being worked on at rehearsals. Practicing only on Monday nights will not get you where you need to be, and hence holds back your section and chorus.
- While on the risers or in the chairs:
  - Sit or stand quietly and listen to the comments/critique given to us by our directors.



- Bring and use a pencil to mark our music with important notes and items to remember.



- Record yourself on a regular basis, and listen to the recordings, to self-evaluate your progress and find the portions of the song that need improvement.

- Encourage each other! We are our own support group, so lend a helping hand when a fellow member seems to be struggling.



- Spend time listening to barbershop music, whether via CDs you own, streaming audio, or YouTube videos. To aspire to become a better singer, we must know what we want to sound like.

- Have fun! While we will always strive to become the best singing machine possible, laughter, smiles, and jokes are part of our brotherhood. Please don't take anything personally when we may drop your name in a jab... we're just bringing humor into the mix.



I hope you fair well when thinking about the above items and step things up in the areas you know you can improve. If we all raise the bar individually, just think of where we might go.



## *If you really want to know*

By: Jim Frye ~ Social Media Manager for the JAD

Most of us are aware that the Chordsmen, JAD and BHS have a presence on the Internet, via websites and our social networking. To make sure you have the accurate information here are the locations online:

### Websites

<http://www.funcenterchordsmen.com>  
<http://www.singjad.com>  
<http://www.harmony.org>

### Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/funcenterchordsmen>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/johnnyappleseeddistrict/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety/>

### Twitter

<http://twitter.com/funcenterchords>  
<http://twitter.com/jadbhs>  
<https://twitter.com/barbershopnews>

Here is a **TUIT** for you.

Notice that it is round. This is for those guys who are always going to learn their music when they get “a-round-tuit”



## **You don't want to miss it**

By: Dave Kracker ~ Assistant Director

A wonderful barbershop event will soon be occurring in our backyard. The 2016 Singing Buckeyes **Stars of the Night Show** will be held on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at Upper Arlington High School 1650 Ridgeview Rd. in Columbus.

The Stars of the Night Show is the culmination of Harmony Camp. The show opens with the Singing Buckeyes doing several numbers followed by the campers' choruses and quartets. The Girls will sing:

- Ain't Misbehavin'
- We Go Together
- Breakin' Up Is Hard To Do (sung as "Wakin' Up Is Hard To Do")

The Boys chorus will sing:

- Blue Velvet
- Grand Night For Singing
- Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho

The combined chorus finale will sing:

- You'll Never Walk Alone.

Two medalist quartets, **Ringmasters** (gold) and **Forefront** (silver) will be performing along with an excellent women's quartet to wrap up this very entertaining barbershop show.

Mark your calendars now! Although tickets are \$25, because of Mansfield's strong support of the camp over many years, we can purchase discounted tickets for \$15.

Just call the camp office (**614-459-0400**) for tickets, and advise the person who answers that **Darlene** has approved for any Mansfield chorus member to purchase tickets for \$15.

If you need more information about the Stars of the Night show, talk to Dave Kracker. 🎵

## *The consequences of working hard and smart*

By: Tom Webb ~ Tenor Section Leader

No one would argue that the last two audiences the Chordsmen sang for were anything but receptive. Many would argue that receptive is an understatement, and that they would have applauded a group of chimpanzees performing ballet. Even if that were the case, a bad ballet would not bring the chimps a standing ovation. Great audiences may be enthusiastic, but they're not stupid. even slightly inebriated ones.

The point is this: our chorus is performing at a very high level now. Higher than ever before, and the rewards for that performing are the standing ovations we've received the last two gigs. Yes, the audiences were very receptive, and yes, one of them had several members feeling no pain. But, given the circumstances, had we performed as we sometimes have in the past there would be no standing O, either time.

Let's be candid here. We have been pretty mediocre in times past compared to where we are now. We're no Westminster chorus or Vocal Majority, but we are much better than where we were, say, five years ago. Are we an A level chorus? No, but with some more



hard work and dedication (and a few more members) who's to say we can't be?

We are starting to reap the rewards for all of the effort and hard

work that has been required of us to improve our performances. A large number of us have bought into what Doug tried to teach us, and into what Trevor, Jim and Dave are teaching us now.

Taking the time to work smart at singing and performing well has led to our chorus doing both. We are singing well and performing well and the rewards are the responses of the audiences.

I don't know about you but I was pretty stoked after the March show with the Buckeyes because I thought

we performed well there. Having watched the video of the show I still feel the same way even though I think we could have done better.

The performances at Altrusa and The Waterford only reinforced the thought that we are definitely on the right track.. Along the way we're finding out that "old dogs can learn new tricks", like solfeggio for instance, which only adds to our arsenal of knowledge that is improving our singing.



Something else is happening too. I believe we are having more fun, and it's showing in our performances. This can be attributed to the attitude our directors have taken, that singing should be fun and, when coupled with hard work, can produce a quality performance. It doesn't hurt that we have a young front line director who is knowledgeable, enthusiastic and fun to be around. He, along with our newest assistant director bring a combination of youth, experience and fresh ideas to our rehearsals. Their enthusiasm has even rubbed off on the "old dog" on the block, who's acting a little younger nowadays. (Although he still wears his baseball hats with the brim forward, probably a good thing.)

So here's the bottom line. The consequences of working hard and smart, opening our minds to new and fresh ideas, having fun and not settling for the same old same old are, *drum roll please* .....better performances with.....standing ovations.....bravo! bravo!.....more! more!.....Yeah, go ahead and tell me that doesn't feel good. I dare you! 🎵

*I'll talk to anyone about anything,  
but sooner or later I'll tell him I sing.  
I'll invite him to visit on Monday night  
and if he likes what he hears, he just might,  
become a member and maybe he'll bring,  
another good man who likes to sing.*



## *Craft Corner*

By: Dan Noe ~ Bass Section Leader

Plato, the Greek Philosopher, said: "Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inner places of the soul."

Though this is very true we must be practical about how it reaches our souls. The operative word here is 'training' which hints of our contribution... work, work, work.

Our directors are working hard at presenting ways and means of training. Notice our vocal warm ups each practice and how they are filled with constructive ideas on developing our skill. I for one truly appreciate this effort because I know how important these basics are.

I remember a sermon I once preached in which I included an illustration about a famous Italian voice instructor who accepted a young lady student with good potential. He started her lessons by assigning a

variety of scale and interval exercises for to do faithfully each day. This went on for weeks and months until the lady in frustration asked when he would add real songs to her training schedule. He said I will let you know when you are ready. Finally, after nearly two years of exercise training he announced to her that she no longer needed his instruction, for she had indeed become a world class singer. In fact she did become a world famous musician.


The moral of the story is obvious. Practice those scales and intervals routinely because each time you do you are training your vocal muscles to form the

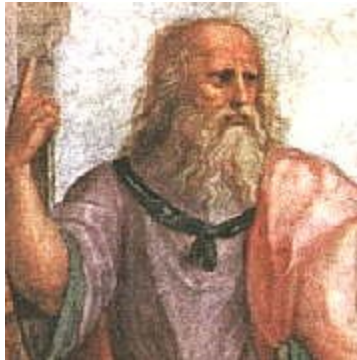
sounds you desire. Along with this listen, listen, listen to your own voice and match it with your pitch pipe or a well-tuned piano. \

Today I emphasize the intervals. Accurate intervals are crucial to good pitch in our voice production. For example in our new "Spiritual Medley" we basses have a major 7<sup>th</sup> interval, high to low range. This puppy is hard to do. We must practice it over and over to train our ear and our voice muscles to nail it quickly.

The common intervals like the 1, 3, 5, 8 are probably pretty well established in your hearing and muscle control because we use them so frequently, but the odd ones like the minor 2, minor 3, sharp 4, sharp 5, 6, dominant 7 and major 7 are not so easy to negotiate.

We all know the do- re- mi scale with the root on C, so blow a C on your pipe then blow a F#, which is the sharp 4 and is called the tri-tone interval (used more frequently in barbershop than we might think) and practice this interval repeatedly to train our ear what it sounds like and our voice muscles to sing it automatically.

Don't try too many different intervals at once or you will confuse your hearing consciousness. Master one at a time then move to a different. This will pay off in your skill because you will know what you are doing....eventually! 



## From the Board walk

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



### Secretaries Report (Lee)

May board minutes were approved

### Treasurer's Report (Financial

### Recap 5/15/2016 – 6/9/2016)

Income = \$636.68

Expenses = \$915.83

### VP Music & Performance (Trevor)

Started 2017 show music

New piece of 2017 show music to be introduced every 2 to 3 weeks.

### VP Marketing & PR (RF Miller)

Sharlene at Groupanizer and R.F. discovered that any upload, change or download counted in download log. Groupanizer looking into the problem of programming.

Renewed the Funcenterchordsmen domain name of .org and .com. as well as the email lists.

Working on creating a boiler plate of a Chordsmen Strategic Operations plan.

Rewriting the website operational guide lines because of the change in the look and feel of the members only side.

### VP YIH: (Dave Kracker)

23 camper scholarships given for Harmony Camp from this area.

211 campers total signed up for Harmony camp.

### Chorus Manager: (Dan Noe)

Summer church sing Sunday, July 17 at Trinity United Methodist Church on Grace street in Mansfield

June 23 First Congregational Church social gathering evening sing. This is a free gig.

August 13 Ashland Veterans appreciation sing at Ashland Airport. \$300 gig.

### New Business:

R.F. & Lee to work on creating a Strategic Operations plan boiler plate for the Chordsmen to present to the board in September for a Saturday board retreat. 🎵

## Point to Ponder

An Editorial

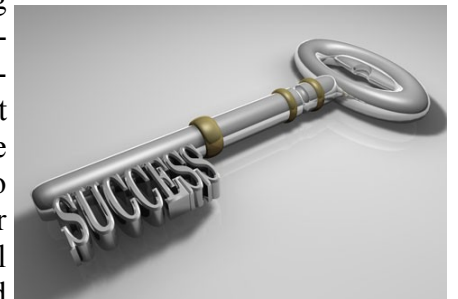
# Impossible

At one point in our lives we have all been faced with a challenge, to which our response has been "Impossible."



At first glance, if the challenge, goal or objective seems overwhelming and almost impossible to reach, then your mindset will not allow a successful completion.

The key to success in any endeavor is our initial mindset. Having the correct mindset for a particular task is almost a pre-requisite for success. No one has ever been successful who has not had to overcome hurdles and obstacles to that success. The ability to have an empowering and positive outlook and mind-set allows us to not only overcome those hurdles and obstacles to success but to actually welcome them as challenges and opportunities for growth and learning.



OK, so the question is, what's the secret to a positive mindset? Look again at the subtitle of this Points to Ponder article...Impossible. Look close and see what else is in that word.

"I'm-Possible." That's right. The key to success is our mindset. "If you think you can, or if you think you can't, either way, you're right."

Catch yourself about to say "impossible" and say instead, "I'm Possible." That's the first step in reaching a successful outcome. 🎵



## 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!**