



**"HARMONY  
IN MOTION"**

# *The Chordsmen Chronicle*



[www.FunCenterChordsmen.com](http://www.FunCenterChordsmen.com)

Volume 41 Issue 5 ~ May 2016

## *Chordsmen guest chorus on Buckeye's Spring Fling show*

The Singing Buckeyes Chorus presents...

# Spring Fling

**TWO SHOWS**  
2pm / 7pm

**May 7, 2016**

**Fort Hayes Performing Arts Center**  
546 Jack Gibbs Blvd, Columbus 43215

\$15 General Admission - \$12 seniors / students



Featuring The Singing Buckeyes quartets Buckeye Blend, Spotlight and Top Shelf, plus Mansfield, Ohio's The Fun Center Chordsmen

It was "pay back time" for the Chordsmen to the Singing Buckeyes chorus in Columbus, Ohio. In March of this year, the Buckeyes appeared on the annual Chordsmen show. And in return, the Chordsmen agreed to appear on the Buckeyes annual show. They scheduled two shows at 2:00 and 7:00 PM.

And so it was that rather early on a Saturday morning, May 7, about 28 members of the Chordsmen departed Mansfield and Ashland for the 60 mile jaunt south to Columbus. The call time was 11:00 AM with warm-ups beginning shortly thereafter.

The Buckeyes, directed by **Chad Wulf** opened the 2:00 PM show with three numbers followed by one of the special quartets, **The Core**.

Then it was the Chordsmen's turn on stage directed by **Jim Frye** and **Dave Kracker** for the 2:00 PM show. The Chordsmen sang five numbers from various Broadway shows. One of the most recognized songs was "Lida Rose" made famous by the Buffalo Bills and Shirley Jones in the show "The Music Man." **Megan Garrabrant**, wife of director **Trevor Garrabrant**, did an excellent job of singing the solo.

Immediately after the chorus, two of the Mansfield chapter quartets, **Home Edition** and **Good Company** performed in front of the curtain.

After another guest quartet, **Buckeye Blend**, and the intermission, the Buckeyes returned to the stage to perform five additional songs. **Spotlight**, another guest quartet followed the Buckeyes.

Then it was time for the big finish. The Buckeyes were joined on stage by the Chordsmen for an 80 voice chorus that really rocked the house.

The 7:00 PM show was identical in every fashion with one exception, **Trevor Garrabrant** was able to join the Chordsmen. Trevor is the track coach for Crestview School and with an important track meet scheduled for Saturday morning, he wasn't available for the first show.

About 5:30, Trevor came rolling with a very red face. His quote to the chorus was, "don't worry, I'm not mad, I'm just sunburned." He was his usual energetic self as he prepared the chorus for the second show. All in all it was a great time spent with our brothers in the Buckeyes. 🎵

## *150 Ladies and a standing ovation*

By: R.F. Miller



Every chorus has performed for audiences with their reactions ranging from stone cold silence to raucous enthusiasm.

When the audience, by their reactions, shows they are really enjoying your performance, it brings out the best in every chorus member.

Such was the case on Saturday night, April 23 at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, Ohio. The Fun Center Chordsmen were scheduled to sing for Altrusa at 8:00 PM that evening.

Eight o'clock came and went and by 8:30 we began to wonder what was going on. To cut to the chase, at 8:50 we finally made our way to the front of 150 very excited ladies.

We opened up with "There's No Business Like Show Business" before anything was said. Then the Emcee asked the ladies to help with a little primary market research. The question was, "How many of you have never ever heard the Fun Center Chordsmen sing before?" When everyone in the room raised their hands, the Emcee said "I guess the next question is...Where were you during the last song?" The ladies erupted in hysterical laughter. I mean the laughter continued for almost a full minute. We knew then that this was going to be one of our more exciting performances.

We received a couple of standing ovations and at the end of the performance they began shouting "encore." It was a great night for singing!

The ladies were members of the Altrusa International District Five conference in Mansfield held April 22 through April 24. 🎵

## *Music Team hits the ground running*

Every year, for the past several years, the Music Team vows to get an early start on "next year's show." But it doesn't always work out that way.

This year is much different. The Music Team met on Saturday, April 16 for three hours to hammer out the theme of the 2017 show and the list of songs. We're way ahead of the game this year.

There were several themes considered and several songs discussed and played from YouTube. All of them seemed to fall in a few categories. Out of nowhere, **Tom Webb** said "how about Love, Faith and Rock n Roll?" Everyone agreed that this would be a great theme. Now to pick out the songs. With so many good ones to choose from, it became a challenge to narrow the field. To keep from having all brand new songs to learn, we picked five new ones and used three we've sung before but that probably have some dust on them.

So the theme is "**Love, Faith and Rock n Roll.**" In the **Love** category is Where is Love, In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning and Happy Together.

In the **Faith** category is Spiritual Medley, and Sweet Hour of Prayer.

For the **Rock n Roll** set it's Come Go With Me, Drift Away and For The Longest Time.

Songs will be introduced in a staggered format. The first of the new songs to be introduced is Happy Together scheduled for May 23.

It's a great theme and a great line up of songs. And it will be a fun show to perform.

This year, the Music Team is recommending that all members of the chorus qualify on the show songs before singing on the show. 🎵

# The benefits of a common quartet repertoire

By: Tom Webb ~ Tenor Good Company

**Dave Kracker** of the Home Edition quartet, recently suggested the chorus's quartets learn some of each other's songs. This would be especially helpful in case of illness or emergency where one or more quartet members might fill in for someone else.

Such was the case of our chorus performance for Altrusa. Good Company was scheduled to sing two songs during the course of the evening. Just a few day before the event, we found out our bass, **Mike Craze** had come down with a nasty viral infection and was ruled out of action for a period of eight or nine days.

What to do? Well, the first thought was to see if someone from another quartet could fill in since it was only for two songs. At the very least, we could sing a couple of polecats for the unsuspecting audience.

It's always nice when you can find another quartet member who has been around long enough to have a repertoire of songs from which they can draw in times of need. And thankfully **Bill Herdman**, bass of Home Edition, is one such person.



All Good Company had to do is provide Bill with a list of our current repertoire and almost

immediately Bill had picked out three songs he knew, without breaking a sweat. So we got together the Thursday night before the performance, rehearsed for about an hour, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The raucous crowd of Altrusa ladies would not have had a clue had we not mentioned the addition of Bill into our lineup. And that's the way it should be.

We are, after all, professionals, and as such should be able to perform with a replacement quartet member so that the audience cannot tell the difference.

This is just one example of how the four quartets, having four or five songs in a common repertoire could be there in case of another illness or emergency when a performance is scheduled..

In this case we had less than a week to prepare, not enough time to learn and perfect one new song let alone more than two.

So Dave's idea has a lot of merit. The quartets should get together, sooner rather than later, and work out the logistics of this "common songs" idea. After all Altrusa was a stellar audience. Who in their right mind would want to willingly miss that? ♪



## *Leader or leaner The choice is yours*

*In an article on page five of this issue, the subject was setting a goal to prepare for the chorus contest in 2017. In September 2005, former Director Steve Kovach, “nailed it” with this Directly Speaking article. It’s certainly worth a second read!*

*The same information presented in Steve’s article should be applied to each and every song we sing. For the word Contest in this article,, substitute the words “show” and “performance”*

*Ed:*



Steve Kovach

Preparing for a barbershop contest can be an arduous task. Of course that depends on the kind of person you are. If you are a leader, you take every moment that is available to you in your spare time and work toward the goal of contest. Even without taking time away from the important tasks of day-to-day life, using a few minutes here and there throughout the day will help the leader prepare.

One option is to recite the words of both contest songs in your head or out loud. Maybe the leader is not yet to that point. If that is the case, the leader may opt to sit down and write out the words. He might also use the music. By glancing at the lyrics, the leader will slowly get to know the text by heart. This process is used by the leader to make the lyrics part of his long-term memory.

Between rehearsals, the leaner might forget where the contest music is. On Monday afternoon, he will locate his barbershop folder and speed-read the music. He thus ensures that the

same words will be “flubbed” each and every time he sings the song. The leaner is committed to a very low level of consistency.

A leader knows that without all the right notes, the songs just don’t sound right. After all, the arranger took hours and hours to put just the right notes in the right order so that the song would meet all of the criteria for a legal barbershop contest song.

Knowing all of that, the leader will spend some time during the week making sure that he knows all of his notes in the right order at the right time. How does the leader accomplish such a task? Surely all of them do not play piano or read music.

The leader will employ one or both of these options.

**Option 1:** He will listen to the recording that he made from the previous rehearsal. As preparations continue, progress is made. It’s for this reason that the rehearsal recording is the best tool the leader can use to keep up and improve.

**Option 2:** A leader will also listen to the learning track recording of the contest songs. While these recordings are not the most up to date in many cases, they are still an excellent way for a leader in the chorus to keep up with the words and notes. The leader knows that all contest repetitions are good contest repetitions.

The leaner doesn’t think much about notes. He assumes that he knows “most” of them. The leaner doesn’t think there’s much of a need to keep rehashing the notes over and over.

Overall the leaner counts on the leader. More to the point the leaner cannot exist without the leader. If there is no one to lean on, the leaner becomes ineffective.





## A goal stated can be a goal achieved

By: R. F. Miller

This year we passed on the opportunity to go to the Johnny Appleseed district chorus contest. In 2014, we scored a 71.4 in the AA plateau category which placed us third out of the 10 choruses competing. This score showed us that we had improved.

We decided not to go to contest this year because it became apparent that we could not improve on the 71.4 score. Earlier in the year, the music team had decided that each member must qualify to be on the risers for contest. It became apparent that less than a third of the chorus could qualify.

After working many months on our two contest songs, including singing them on our show, the commitment to get these two songs to contest quality, just wasn't there. We will attend the chorus contest in April 2017 with the same two songs. So the question, for each member, becomes, "am I willing to put forth the effort to qualify?"

The goal stated for 2017 is "score higher than the previous 71.4." That goal can be achieved if each member "commits to do what it takes to qualify." That is have every note, every word and every choreography move down pat.

We as members, don't have to worry about any portion of the chorus except the 2'x2' square on the risers, that belongs to each of us.

The potential to achieve the goal is 11 months away. Plenty of time to prepare to qualify. We must not procrastinate and wait until the last minute to begin preparation. Begin now! 🎵

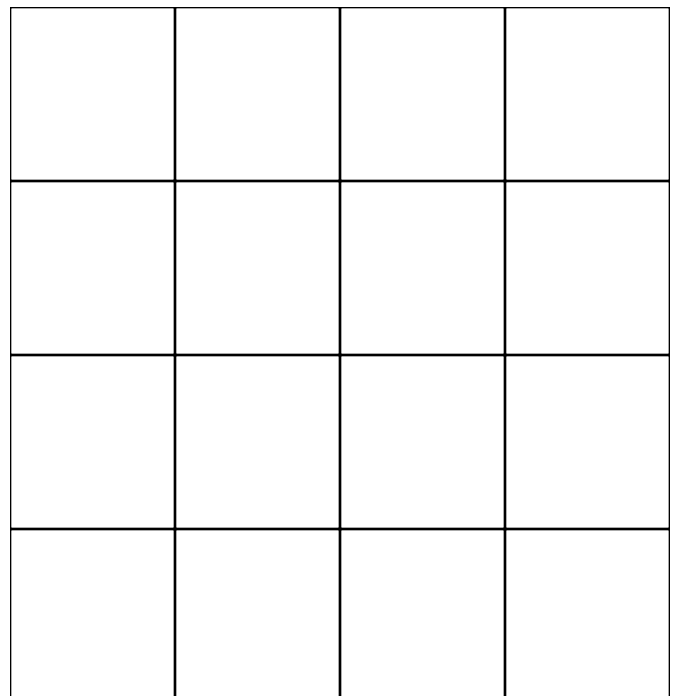
## A brain game

By: R.F. Miller

In this world of automation, robots, mega computers and all sorts of hand held electronics, it is easy to forget how to think for ourselves to solve problems. We rely on all sorts of "apps" to do our thinking for us. It is easier to ask "Siri" than to look it up ourselves.

What has this got to do with singing in the Fun Center Chordsmen? Do we learn new music by just listening to the learning track? Or do we listen to the learning track while looking at the chart? Yes, studying the chart to make sure of the notes and intervals is more difficult than just learning by listening.

Here's a challenge to exercise the brain. In the diagram below, you can see 16 individual boxes. Can you diagram the boxes to come up with the total number of boxes you see? I have the diagram with the answer. Think outside the box to determine the total inside the box. Good luck.



## From the Board walk

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



Here are the highlights from the April 11 board meeting. The full version of the minutes can be found on the website in the members only section > documents > minutes.

### VP Music & Performance (Trevor)

Music team retreat scheduled for Saturday, April 16 at First Congregational church to select 2017 show theme and songs. Put calendar together of when to get show songs out. Prepare 2016 repertoire list.

### VP Marketing & PR (RF Miller)

Took a call from Tony Delong about May 14 veterans appreciation at Airport around 1pm or 2pm for 30 minute nonpaying gig

### VP Membership (Ed Farrar)

May 9 will be guest night  
New business cards have been made for members to pass out

### VP YIH (Dave Kracker)

\$2500 grant from Richland Foundation given through two different donor grants for Youth In Harmony.

### Chorus Manager (Dan Noe)

April 23, 2016 @ 8pm Altrusa gig at Holiday Inn.

May 16, 2016 Eastern Star gig for Diane Kracker at 8:30pm at Masonic Temple.

May 19, 2016 45 minute gig at the Waterford.

Nov. 11, 2016 @ 2pm Lucas Local Schools veterans program 🎵

## Point to Ponder

*An Editorial*



Here's a mathematical refresher for you. There are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in a hour, 24 hours in a day and 168 hours a week. That's 720 hours in a month and 8,760 hours in a year.

Everyone has the same amount of time. No exception! The difference is in the decision – the decision of just how to spend those hours every day and every week.

The average work day is eight hours. For the working man it normally takes one hour to get ready and get to work, a one hour lunch and then an hour commuting time each day, so you're left with 13 hours. Oh, yes, if you take out eight hours for sleep, you have five hours of discretionary time each day Monday through Friday. Why should you spend three hours of that precious time on Monday nights with the Chordsmen?

What process does one use to decide how to spend their discretionary time? The name of the game is singing, fun and fellowship. People like to have fun! It's called hobbies. So what makes a man want to spend time with the Fun Center Chordsmen? Maybe it's the *fun factor*. And for those men who like to sing, the Fun Center Chordsmen is a group with which to have lots of fun.

When a visitor is among us, the fellowship must play an important role. If he's made to feel welcome *and* has fun, odds are, he'll want to return.

Most people enjoy a challenge to keep the mind active. Now if you couple the *fun factor and the fellowship with the challenge*, you have a combination that's hard to beat. In the chorus, that's where the challenge comes in, applying everything Trevor teaches, putting it all together to perform and entertain. It combines all the factors. And don't forget...It's fun!

Let's not deprive other men of this great hobby. But you have to extend an invitation first. 🎵

## 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!**