



River City Gazette

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All The News That's Fit To Ring!

Friday, July 3rd—2015 Daily Bulletin

The 77th Annual Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention

2015 Chorus Contest: A Battle for the Ages!

By Ron Brooks

The last time the top two seeded choruses met, they tied for first place, and Westminster came out on top due to a higher singing score...by just a smidge!

Now, the Ambassadors of Harmony from St. Charles, MO are back with only one thing on their mind—WIN! But the Westminster Chorus from California is not going down without a fight. The problem is they are not the only dogs in the race.

Multi-time gold medal chorus director Jay Giallombardo is back with The New Tradition Chorus. Ranked third coming in is the Alexandria Harmonizers who have also won in the past. Hungry and standing in the door is the Central Standard chorus. Hot on the trail, is the Music City Chorus which promises a trip down memory lane. Don't count out the Men of Independence or previous medalist The Alliance Chorus from Columbus Ohio.

This promises to be a contest for the ages, and if it's anything like years past, there are always some surprises!



Top Seed—The Westminster Chorus



2nd Seed

Ambassadors of Harmony

3rd Seed—

Alexandria Harmonizers



Fifty-year member Bill Snyder & his wife, Tootie, from Myrtle Beach.



Jim Legters receiving his 50 year pin with wife, Pat, by his side. Also pictured are: Don Fuson (Society President) & Marty Monson (Society Ex Dir-CEO)



Harmony Fellows Breakfast Celebrates The Class of 1965

Fifty years. That's a very long time in a person's life. To continue to be part of "something" for 50 years or more, requires dedication, commitment, support of those closest to us, and a deep love of that "something". For those attending the Harmony Fellows Breakfast, that "something" is Barbershop singing.

Sharon Miller, Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Harmony Foundation, welcomed those in attendance. Sharon has spent 34 years as a Barbershopper's wife. She reminded everyone that Barbershop is about family and the fact that if it weren't for the Barbershopper's family, they couldn't enjoy the hobby.

Jim Clark, Regional Director of the Harmony Foundation, began the ceremony by inviting all in attendance to sing "Heart Of My Heart". I have heard this song many times, but never has it touched me as it did at that moment. The beautiful harmonies brought a peacefulness to the room. The next time I hear that song, I will think of the moment I experienced in the Lexus Room of the CONSOL.

Ev Nau, Development Director, Retired, Harmony Foundation, introduced each honoree to receive their 50 year pin and told us a little bit about each recipient. *Here are a few that I enjoyed:* Robert Burgener was studying for his PhD and formed a quartet with some other PhD students. They called their quartet "Candidates". Richard Berkshire has attended 46 International Conventions & his father was also in the 50 year member club. Wesley Bieritz has spent his entire 50 years with the same Chapter! And finally, the best one, Kurt Gummerman. Kurt's wife went in to labor as he was leaving for chorus practice. He went to practice, called her on break to check on her, discovered that she didn't need to go to the hospital just yet, so he finished practicing then went straight home so that she could give birth! I'd say that his wife provides him with great support for his hobby!

Congratulations to all those honored—those receiving their pins and those who are already members of this special Club!



Donors Launch Largest Match in Foundation History

The **Legacy of Harmony Endowment Campaign** is underway! So important is that future that six donors have thrown down the largest matching challenge in Foundation History! John & Sharon Miller, Dick & Peggy Lidstad, and one more anonymous couple have pledged a 1:10 “Cash-Gift-to-Planned-Gift” Match of a half-million dollars!

For every \$10 in pledged Planned Gifts (Wills, Bequests, Life Insurance Beneficiaries, etc), these donors will give Harmony Foundation \$1 in Cash today.

That means \$5 Million in “Legacy of Harmony” planned gift commitments raises \$500,000 Cash TODAY!

Please Be Respectful of Audience and Performers!



When you see our volunteers in the concourse areas at Consol holding up these “**Shush Signs**” between Quartet and Chorus performers, it means “The Doors are Closed.” But since there are no doors—only curtains—please, please, please be **QUIET** as there are seats just on the other side of the curtains. Many thanks!

Vocal Majority Shares Gold Medal Secrets *Reflections of a Barbershopper*



The Harmony U Gold Medal hour with the Vocal Majority was simply amazing! Watching a group like this close up is simply mind-blowing, and yet when they answered many of the questions from the class we realized they are all just like us.

They are common guys who have a bond like a family, all working towards a common goal—singing well! And that is exactly what they have done for many, many years. This class caught the attention of the media as you see a radio station (WESA 90.5FM) was recording much of what was sung and said. Jim & Greg Clancy and the VM are a true class act and attending this class and watching (and hearing) them is something I will never forget.



The Clancys, Jim (left) and Greg, share their VM Gold Medal secrets with, and answer questions from, an attentive, appreciative packed house.

DID YOU KNOW the webcast is now available on a large screen while you eat at the Epiphany Church right in front of the CONSOL. All kinds of food—salads, fruit, sandwiches and desserts. Use the 5th Ave exit for the easiest entrance to the Church. The food fest is in the basement of the Church across from the Marriott.

Let's Sing-a-Tag

A regular feature in the **River City Gazette**, featuring “Favorite Tags of Pittsburgh-area Tag Masters.”

Today's Tag was submitted by **Ron Brooks**, Director, Cranberry Bogmeisters.

Find three new friends and have some fun ringing these chords! A new quartet may be in your future!

11. When I Leave The World Behind

when I leave the world be - hind

Be - - - hind

when I leave the world be - hind