



Hey! Silver Statesmen,

Welcome Back to in-person meetings!! Thursday, May 6th, will see our return to singing together. It's been a long time coming and I know we are anxious to see and hear how everyone has fared over the past year.

Until such time as the health authorities deem it safe to do so, our rehearsals will require the wearing of masks. Special "singers masks" have been purchased for our performances in June (assuming they will still be required by the venues).

At the end of each chapter meeting, we will need your help to quickly "sanitize" the chairs and area that we will be using at the church. Materials and protocols will be made known when we figure it all out.

With regard to the recent survey sent to the chapter in March to measure our desire to return to in-person meetings, about 82% of those who responded have had both of the vaccinations and are ready to sing together again. My short personal comment at the end of the survey was a small tribute to Dr. Seuss and expresses my readiness for seeing all you guys again:

I'll sing on a riser
I'll sing from a chair
I'll sing with no whiskers
I'll sing without hair

Just let me sing
To hear the chords ring
Happy as a clam,
Again, I am!

Thanks!

~ Fred



BARBERSHOP HARMONY

Is music that is performed in the 21st century, structured and preserved in the 20th century, uses Romantic dynamics and rubato, Classical form and structure, a Baroque harmonic plan, Renaissance tone production, and Medieval tuning practices. It is truly a music influenced by all time.

 The Silver Statesmen
SilverStatesmen.com



Our Mission Statement:

"To share our passion for music, to preserve the art form known as Barbershop singing, to enrich the lives of our members, community, and audiences through performance and to bring people together in harmony and fellowship."





A FUN round of golf
Entertainment on the course
Beverages available
Delicious Deli Luncheon
Awards Ceremony
Free Drawings
Raffles

2021 All in Harmony Golf Tournament

This will be our biggest fund-raiser of the year. Our chorus and the Lady Luck Showtime Chorus are co-hosting this tournament which we hope will become an annual event. What can you do to help?

- 1. Find out about the tournament and Register to play a round of golf at www.AllinHarmonyGolfTournament.com**
- 2. Talk to all of your friends about playing in the tournament .**
- 3. Spread the word to all you come in contact with... doctor, dentist, plumber, pool guy, handyman, etc..... You get the idea! Give them the benefits of becoming a tournament sponsor. See the website for sponsor benefits for their business.**

Don't play golf? No Problem!

- 1. Contact Wally Smulson for a list of jobs and volunteer to help. (wsmulson@gmail.com or 847-693-1418) WE NEED YOU!!**

The tournament will be on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at the Los Prados Golf Course, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Golf Committee Chairman: Greg Dreyer (greg.dreyer77@gmail.com)



A NEW TIP FOR TIRED VOICES: HEAD TO THE HARDWARE STORE!

by Jordan Travis from barbershop.org

Using funnel phonation to help stretch your vocal chords Anyone in the vocal coaching world knows the importance of SOVT (semi occluded vocal tract) exercises. This is why we lip trill, tongue trill, or use consonant sounds like "vvv" or "zzz" in rehearsals. SOVT exercises help us increase back pressure that reflects at the lips back to the vocal folds which helps them vibrate with more ease and much less effort.

Currently, one of the very best SOVT exercises is straw phonation where one would make sound through the straw. Until recently, that is what I used and would prescribe to students.

This video shows a new SOVT technique which allows you to sing “normally” with all of the great benefits of straw phonation:

[Funnel Phonation - A new SOVT exercise, with Jordan Travis - YouTube](#)

HOW TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT YOUR VOICE BEFORE A PERFORMANCE (OR REHEARSAL)

by Andre Calilhanna from blog.discmakers.com

There are lots of common-sense things you should do as a vocalist to keep your instrument in top shape to perform, and as performance opportunities will be returning soon, it's worth reminding ourselves of some of the basics.

There are many things that go into a great vocal performance, and they don't all require being the most technically gifted singer with a five-octave range. Confidence, charisma, and the right repertoire are among the many subjective elements that go into any great performance – live or when recording vocals in a studio – in addition to having chops as a singer.

“‘Synthesis’ is this fancy word we throw around in our college,” says Daniel Ebbers, Professor of Voice and Chair of Music Performance at the University of the Pacific, “and I do think it’s an important thing. We study all these things individually, but it’s the synthesis, a command of your vocal instrument, a command of the stage, a command of the language, and the language you use – all these things synthesized together make a great vocal performance.” Of course, much of what helps a performer reach the point where all these elements come together is preparation, practice, and experience. A good vocal warm-up, general vocal care, and protecting your voice leading up to a performance or rehearsal can help ensure you perform at your peak when the time comes.

Vocal performance preparation

When preparing for a vocal performance or studio date, “the obvious thing to do is rest,” recommends Ebbers. “But there are environmental things you might not be aware of or consider an issue, like being in a place where the decibel level is much higher than you think it is. In order to compete with the sound, you have to strain your voice to speak louder to be heard or understood. Many times, people are unaware that they’re in such an environment, because there are so many noisy places in our world, and we’ve come to accept them and adjust. But when you’re a singer, you have to be more aware of these environmental conditions.”

As the prospect of playing club dates, bars, and parties starts to be a possibility in the coming months, the quality of your performance and your vocal health can be severely impacted in the hours leading up to your set by talking and socializing before you get on stage. “Don’t go shouting to your neighbor across the street or unduly tax your voice before a performance or session, even if it’s a week away,” says vocalist, studio owner, and producer Jon Marc Weiss. “That can take its toll on your throat and vocal cords and can really mess you up. Keep in mind that you need to keep your voice in tip-top shape so that when you’re called on, you can perform.”

But it’s not just the days and hours leading up to a given night’s performance that you need to consider, especially if you are singing in a stage production or any performance ensemble that requires nightly or continuous performances. In “normal” times, “very often, after a performance there’s a party, a reception, or something,” cautions Ebbers, “and many famous singers will say, ‘I’d love to come, but I can’t, it’s not possible.’ It’s all common-sense stuff that revolves around rest and awareness of your instrument.”

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“All instruments are subject to environmental conditions – humidity, heat, all sorts of things. But other instrumentalists get to put their instrument in a case and walk away, or put it in a room that’s ideally suited to make it sound good. As vocalists, we have to take our instrument everywhere, and there’s this intersection of our lives and this instrument. So there are all sorts of things you need to pay attention to that other instrumentalists don’t have to. But good health is good singing, and whatever you can do to keep yourself healthy is important. Every person is different, and every voice has its own limitations and set of things it can tolerate.”

Care and maintenance of your voice

You know how your guitarist always wipes down his strings and instrument after rehearsal and packs it in a case with a dehumidifier? Have you ever seen how a classical musician babies and cares for his/her instrument? Become as fanatical about your instrument as other musicians are about theirs. Treat your voice in a way that maintains it from show to show. Try not to talk too much during the day. You may have interviews to do or have a day job that has you on the phone or in meetings, but try to stay quiet as much as you can. Practice vocal warm-ups every day, whether you’re rehearsing/performing or not. And get in the habit of doing cool-down exercises after rehearsals or performances to help ensure your vocal cords aren’t as stiff the next day.

And, above all, don’t yell before, during, or after a performance. When you yell, you’re closing your windpipe while pushing air as hard as you can to get sound out. Your vocal cords are being blasted by air pressure and are resisting it — fighting against it. That puts a lot of wear-and-tear on your vocal cords. As a singer, and certainly as a performing singer, you need to have stamina, and stamina comes from taking good care of your vocal cords. You can’t continue to put pressure on them over and over without you losing your voice.

Establish a warm-up routine

A few years ago, professor Ebberts recorded some warm-up routines for us, and they are worth sharing again. Enjoy, and take care of your voice!

Vocal warmup tips part 1: <https://youtu.be/KU1MkEyp3AA>

Vocal warmup tips part 2: <https://youtu.be/jnCiK3emYns>

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Mary: Why was the piano player asked to join the baseball team?




Mack: Because he had perfect pitch!

Matt: What has lots of keys, a trunk and four legs?

Mickey: A piano up a tree!

Maddie: My dad can play the piano by ear.

Mark: So? My father fiddles with his whiskers!



THE TOP 5 ODDITIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

5. THE TWO LONGEST WORDS CONTAINING ONLY ONE OF THE SIX VOWELS (INCLUDING Y) ARE THE 15-LETTER DEFENSELESSNESS AND RESPECTLESSNESS.
4. “FORTY” IS THE ONLY NUMBER WHICH HAS ITS LETTERS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. “ONE” IS THE ONLY NUMBER WITH ITS LETTERS IN REVERSE ALPHABETICAL ORDER.
3. BOOKKEEPER IS THE ONLY WORD THAT HAS THREE CONSECUTIVE DOUBLED LETTERS.
2. DESPITE THE ASSERTIONS OF A WELL-KNOWN PUZZLE, MODERN ENGLISH DOES NOT HAVE THREE COMMON WORDS ENDING IN -GRY. ANGRY AND HUNGRY ARE THE ONLY ONES.
1. “OUGH” CAN BE PRONOUNCED IN EIGHT DIFFERENT WAYS. THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE CONTAINS THEM ALL: “A ROUGH-COATED, DOUGH-FACED PLOUGHMAN STRODE THROUGH THE STREETS OF SCARBOROUGH, COUGHING AND HICCOUGHING THOUGHTFULLY.”

Silver Statesmen Calendar

2021

JANUARY—APRIL: All weekly meetings are being conducted via Zoom.com due to the pandemic.

MAY

6 Return to In-Person Meetings..... YAY!!

JUNE

26 Summer Show —Winchester Cultural Center, 3130 McLeod Dr, 2pm

27 Summer Show —Windmill Library Theater, 7060 W. Windmill Lane, 2pm

July

3 National Anthem/God Bless American (Las Vegas Ballpark, 1650 S. Pavilion Center Dr)

OCTOBER

15-18 Cruise to Ensenada, Mexico

22-24 FWD Convention

23 All in Harmony Golf Tournament—Los Prado Golf & Country Club

DECEMBER

4 Christmas Show—Windmill Library Theater, 7060 W. Windmill Lane, 2pm

5 Christmas Show—Windmill Library Theater, 7060 W. Windmill Lane, 2pm

COME
SING
WITH
US!



Membership
begins with Me

The Nugget is **your** newsletter and vehicle for sharing information, stories, and news about the chapter, chorus, quartets, and the people in them. To make it interesting and a fun read, I would encourage all of you to provide articles for publication, photos of quartets in action, our members, chorus on the risers..... Anything that you find interesting and would like to see in the newsletter to share with others. — The Editor