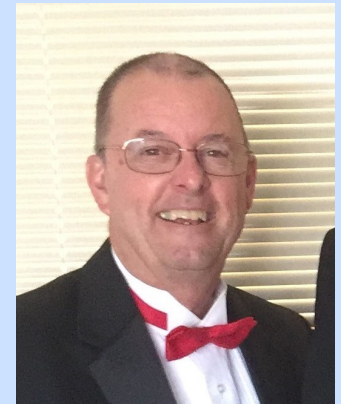




SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Mike Conner

Tenor



Born in May 1952 in Phoenix, Arizona, I grew up in Southern Calif. (Hawthorne, Wilmington, Torrance) plus another place or two. Moved around a little but had a nice childhood. After elementary school, I went to Fleming Jr. High where I participated in my first music class playing trumpet and baritone (the small tuba looking instrument). I had fun but didn't continue it in high school. Went to high school in Simi Valley, Calif., in Ventura County. Played a lot of different sports-type things as a younger guy, basketball, baseball, track, etc., but never fully got involved in high school. Went to Simi High one year, then a new High School opened in Newbury Park. Went there my final two years of high school where I met Darla, the young lady who became my lovely wife.

I started working for Vons market at 16 and retired at 51. Had a friend at work who invited my wife and I to a barbershop show, and when I was around 30 I became a member and received my 40-year membership card recently. I have been in a couple of quartets, the first as a lead as a new member but wasn't confident enough yet so the tenor wanted to hear my falsetto voice and recommended I join the tenor section.

Jim Laverty was the tenor in that quartet and was part of the foursome in the first senior quartet champ "Just For Fun" along with George Dallas, Larry Kraus, and John Ford, all members of the Conejo Valley barbershop chapter I belonged to for over 20 years. I sang bass at the request of our director for about a year and enjoyed it, too. I was in another quartet for years, "Gold Coast Harmony" and "Pacific Union" with Devon Hanson, Ken Day, Dick Chatterton, and myself. The other quartet was the same except the bari was Dick Chapman who was a veterinarian who had a gray parrot who could mimic anything. I've been to harmony college and to the FWD version of the same where we saw the beginning of two up and coming quartets "Nightlife" and "Metropolis."



Our weekly meetings are now at the **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 10265 Bermuda Rd, LV 89183** on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

The church is located on the corner of Bermuda Rd & E. Frias Ave.
You can see an online location map here:

<https://goo.gl/maps/asmKNAK1YbAE7va39>

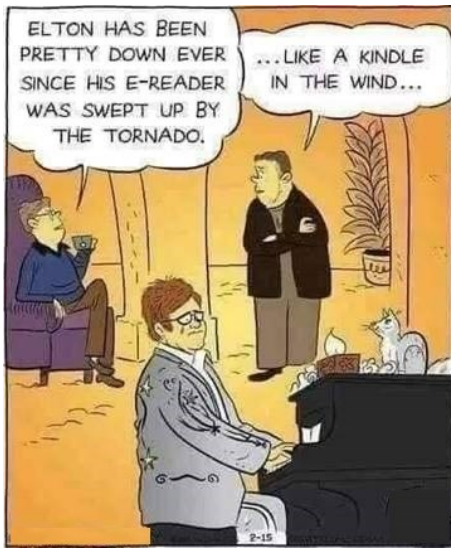
.... Continued (Mike Conner)

Darla and I have two adult children who gave us five grandchildren. Our son and his family live in California with two daughters. Our daughter and her family live here in Las Vegas with our three grandsons.

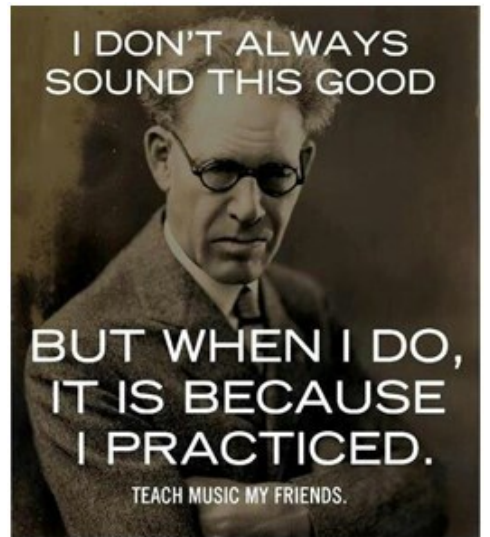
Upon retiring from Vons Market after thirty plus years, I wasn't really ready to quit working, so now I drive a school bus for the Clark County School District.

I enjoy golf, fishing, and mostly enjoy spending time with my wife doing whatever comes up.

I enjoy being a Silver Statesmen and our time together learning and making wonderful music for ourselves to present to our audiences in shows or other events. It's Great to a Silver Statesmen!!



IT'S AMAZING THE NUMBER OF GREAT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE EVER MET IF IT WASN'T FOR MUSIC



The music that touches you in your youth is magnified as you get older. Each song can be a virtual time machine — all you need is to hear a second or two and you go back to that place and time when you first heard it. It's a wonderful feeling when music touches you so profoundly and stays with you through time.



Signature Key Mnemonics

shared by Bill Robey

Hello Chorus Brothers,

I'm sure we all have picked up helpful hints and shortcuts over the years to help us with our music and notation.

I would like to share one I learned many years ago and I find it very helpful.
If you already know this short cut, or something similar, my apologies.

Can you tell what key the music is in by simply looking at the key signature?
You may see 3 flats or 4 sharps, but what does that mean?
I'm glad you asked!

There is a key signature mnemonic to tell you at a glance what key you'll be singing in.

For flat signatures, the mnemonic is:
Fat Boys Eat Apple Dumplings Greedily

1 flat=(F)at
2 flats=(B)oy
3 flats=(E)at
4 flats=(A)pple
5 flats=(D)umplings
6 flats=(G)reedily.

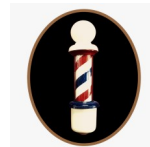
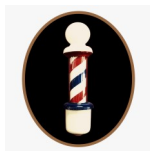
If your chart has a key signature of 5 flats, using the mnemonic, you would be in the key of (D) flat.

Moving on to sharps.
The mnemonic for sharp key signatures is:
Good Deeds Are Ever Bearing Flowers

1 sharp=(G)ood
2 sharps=(D)eeds
3 sharps=(A)re
4 sharps=(E)ver
5 sharps=(B)earing
6 sharps=(F)lowers

If your chart has 3 sharps, you would be singing in the key of (A) sharp.

If this helps someone on their journey through their love of music and singing, I'm happy.



FROM OUR DIRECTOR:
**GORDON'S GAUNTLET OF
WANDERING THOUGHTS**



First of all, I want to thank everyone attending weekly rehearsals and helping create and improve the 'Silver Statesmen' sound. Everyone contributes, all the time.

As we continue to improve, remember to:

1. Keep the face and body relaxed, with no tension.
2. Sip your breath, don't gulp. Even breathe through your nose.
3. Produce a brighter sound, singing through a smile, cheekbones high, show your teeth.
4. Your body can move some, don't be a statue.
5. Internalize the beat, so we don't slow down. Forward motion with energy through all dynamics.
5. Learn your notes and words. Write them out. Your responsibility.
6. Practice in a mirror. You may be surprised by what you see.

The newest songs are progressing and we're doing well, but we can do better and you know it. Let's all help make it happen for our show this month. Sell tickets, invite people, because it's going to be a great show.

Thanks guys for this wonderful opportunity to be your director. Let's keep growing together.

Sing-cerely,

Gordon



When they allowed the bass-singing sheep into the barbershop quartet, they set the baa low.

Only in this crazy world do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a *diet* Coke.

Only in this crazy world do banks leave vault doors open and then chain pens to the counters.

Only in this crazy world do drugstores make sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in this crazy world do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

Only in this crazy world do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

Ever wonder why we don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Ever wonder why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor and dish soap is made with real lemons?

Ever wonder why the person who invests all your money is called a 'broker'?

Ever wonder why if flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

DIRECTOR WANTED – LADY LUCK SHOWTIME CHORUS

The Lady Luck Showtime Chorus, Las Vegas, Nevada, SAI Region 11, is seeking a director. We are a growing, Regional 1st and 2nd place award winning chorus of enthusiastic and friendly women who love to compete and to entertain our community. The position is currently open, as we continue to sing.

Check us out at ladyluckshowtimechorus.org

Email: lscdirectorsearch@gmail.com

or call Lorraine Lederer at 914-441-9215



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



ON THE VALUE OF STATING THE OBVIOUS

by Liz Garnett

The musical directors of BABS had the opportunity on Saturday to hear a presentation from vocal health expert Julian Nicholl at our periodic MDs forum. Julian has that combination of specialist knowledge and kindness that gives you confidence the voices he cares for are in good hands; I particularly liked the way he recognised that while we all have the same basic vocal mechanism, everybody's life circumstances - and thus needs - are individual.

At this point, I realized that my original title, 'On stating the obvious' sounded a bit dismissive towards Julian's presentation, so I've gone back and tweaked it to better capture the reflections that followed.

One of his key points was that the things you need to do to nurture vocal health are exactly the same things you need to nurture any other aspect of health: get enough sleep, exercise and hydration; eat nourishing foods in adequate but not excessive quantities; engage in activities that promote positive emotional states and reduce stress, etc. And this is, in one sense, kind of obvious: a healthy lifestyle gives you the best chance in anything you do.

But it's obvious because it is fundamental. Just because you probably knew that already doesn't make it any less important. And it doesn't mean that we don't need reminding.

It struck me that vocal coaching often seems to have this quality of giving information that the recipients already have, and can as a result come over as either redundant or patronizing. But my observation is that the more fundamental the information, the more impact it has as an intervention. There is rarely much point in getting into the minutiae of tongue position or soft palate until you've shed extraneous tension in neck and shoulders, connected your feet to the floor and released the breath.

This is largely because the information is easy to understand but the behaviours it implies are much more challenging to embed. To automate a bodily habit takes a lot of repetition, particularly when it involves un-automating a less helpful one already well-established. (As Steve Jamison once put it: understanding is the booby prize.)

And I guess it is something to remark upon because it goes against our expectations in other areas of learning. Especially as adult learners, we think of learning as progressive, as increasing in depth and complexity as our knowledge expands. We don't expect to keep having + and - signs explained to us once we've started to learn calculus. To constantly be told to 'go back to basics' feels like we're being kept back in the beginner's class when we've been up in the improvers or advanced for some time already.

(Incidentally, that is one of the reasons I prefer the term 'fundamentals' over 'basics'. Basics sounds like the simple stuff you move on from, whereas fundamentals remain there supporting everything else for all time.)

One of the challenges for the coach, then, is how to keep the most important elements of our craft front and center of our work with singers without the singers zoning out because they're not learning anything new.

Part of this lies in keeping our teaching methods refreshed. New learning activities and different ways of expressing the same idea can help people reengage and discover new things about themselves and their craft. They keep the teacher fresh too; I don't want to hear myself just saying the same thing all the time any more than anyone else does, and the creativity of the coaching process lifts me as well as the people I work with.

Lying behind this creativity is the fact that the information may be the same, but the way it interacts with this particular singer and their needs on this particular occasion is always unique. Whether you're working with individuals or large groups, the trick is to find the particular bit of obviousness to state that will help them achieve their aims from where they are today. And when you find it, the transformation of the sound, and the increase in ease and comfort of creating it, means that the statement of the obvious is experienced as 'Ah, of course, that's just what was needed!'

Stating the obvious, that is, becomes valuable when tailored to context. In the abstract, it may just sound like platitudes. Possibly you knew that already...

The **Silver**
Statesmen

Barbershop Chorus & Quartets
PROUDLY PRESENT

Songs of Love & Songs We Love to Sing

At Winchester Dondero Cultural Center

Saturday, May 20th, 2023

2:00 p.m.



www.SilverStatesmen.com

Purchase Tickets at the Door or from your favorite Barbershopper

\$15.00

Youth 12 and under — FREE!



Winchester Dondero Cultural Center
3130 McLeod Dr
Las Vegas, NV 89121
702-455-7340
<https://clarkcountynv.gov/parks>



Silver Statesmen Calendar

Events For 2023

20 May - "Songs of Love & Songs We Love to Sing" Show - 2:00 pm - Winchester-Dondero Cultural Center, 3130 McLeod Dr, LV 89121

28 May - Memorial Day Organ Concert - 2:00 pm - Grace Presbyterian Church, 1515 W. Charleston Blvd, LV 89102

29 May - Memorial Day Performance - 9:00 am - Woodlawn Cemetery, 1500 N. Las Vegas Blvd, LV

3 Jul - National Anthem at Aviators Game - Las Vegas Ballpark, 1650 S. Pavilion Center Dr, LV 89135

12-15 Oct - District Fall Convention - Gilbert, AZ

Nov (TBD) - Veterans Day Performances

8 Dec - Xmas Show - 7:00pm - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, NV 89113 (FREE)

10 Dec - Xmas Show - 2:00pm - Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, LV 89121 (FREE)

Stay up-to-date with us by visiting our "Shows & Events" page on the website at:

www.SilverStatesmen.com

Your Daily Chuckles

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Just once, I'd like the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough."

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags or is it just me?

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

If God had wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

If you see me talking to myself, just ignore me. I'm self-employed. We're having a staff meeting.

Today's 3-year-olds can turn on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

by Mark Axelrod

- 1 - When did barbershop choruses become commonplace?
- 2 - When did the first international chorus contest take place; for extra credit, where was the venue?
- 3 - Which chorus won that first competition?
- 4 - Why was that chorus not really the first champ?
- 5 - Who then was the first genuine chorus champ?

Answers:

1- From the earliest days of the society, many members complained that they had neither the time nor the inclination to sing in a quartet, but they would love to hear and make the barbershop sound in a chorus. The purists, who opined that the only genuine barbershop harmony was, is and always shall be sung by quartets and quartets only fought like steers, but it was ultimately a losing battle. By the mid-1940s chapter choruses were becoming less and less newsworthy. Choruses may have been around even before 1945, but 1945 is the earliest reference I've yet seen.

2- 1953 in Detroit, MI.

3- The Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids, MI.

4- Because the 1953 contest was a trial balloon to test the popularity of a society-wide chorus contest; not every district was represented. My source did not state which districts were and were not represented.

5- The 1953 contest was enthusiastically responded to and in 1954 the first true society-wide contest with all the districts represented took place in Washington, DC. Our premier chorus champ was the hometown favorites, the Singing Capital Chorus. From 1954 on, choruses have joined quartets every year in international competition.

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."

