



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Fred Green

***VP, Marketing & PR,
& Webmaster***



I was born near Visalia, CA, but lived on my grandparents' ranch, near Paso Robles, CA, through the 3rd grade when my parents and two younger sisters moved to Avenal, CA (west side of the San Joaquin Valley). Avenal was a small town of under 5,000 people. My HS graduating class (1969) had only 70 kids in it. I spent my growing up years hunting, fishing, camping, dirt bike riding, and going to church.

In high school, I played football, baseball, and ran track (When you live in a small town, you get to play ALL those sports!). During the summers I worked in the fields with the migrant farm workers. I picked cantaloupes, tomatoes, and moved irrigation lines. This type of work was all the encouragement I needed to go to college!

I married during my college years (1972) and had two boys and a girl with my first wife. We didn't have any children until after I enlisted in the Air Force, after graduating from college (1973). My oldest son, Eric, who also sings in the Silver Statesmen chorus, and my daughter, Tammy, who lives in Fresno, CA, were born at Hill AFB, Utah. My third child, Jason, has Downs Syndrome and was born at Keesler AFB, MS, and lives in a group home near Fresno. I was married the first time for 14 years.

While stationed at Los Angeles AFB, in El Segundo, CA, I remarried in 1988. My current (and last) wife, Debbie, had a son, Nick, from her first marriage and I adopted him when we got married. He was 6 years old at the time. We have been married for over 34 years. Debbie and I were both Captains in the Air Force at the time we married.

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Our weekly meetings are at the **University United Methodist Church at 4412 S. Maryland Pkwy, LV 89119**, on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY CHURCH is located across the street from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) on Maryland Parkway, between Flamingo Rd and Tropicana Ave.

You can see an online location map here:
<https://goo.gl/maps/JnQu8S85t7DkpVmK8>

After college, I decided to enter the military for the education benefits. At that time, the US was still involved in Vietnam and the Air Force was only taking pilots and navigators as officers, but since I am color blind, I couldn't pass the flight physical. I enlisted in 1974 and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant before finally being accepted into OTS (Officer Training School) in 1978. While enlisted, I was in Personnel and was in charge of the Casualty Assistance Program. I dealt with the next of kin of those who were killed on active duty and retirees. I also assisted our POW/MIA families of those lost in Vietnam. It was a difficult job that I wouldn't wish on anyone.

I spent my active duty years at bases in Utah, Mississippi, Texas, California, and a 3-year tour in Spain. I returned from Spain in 1987 and became the Chief of the Military Personnel Division (responsible for all military personnel actions) at Los Angeles AFB in El Segundo, CA. I had 45 military and civilian members working for me and it was, without doubt, the best job I had on active duty.

After leaving the Air Force in 1990, Debbie and I moved to Las Vegas and I started a swimming pool/spa maintenance and repair business, which I owned for 15 years. During those same years, I also owned a magnetic signs and banners business. I was also the Chief Administrative Officer for three years over a church with a daycare and private elementary school. In 2001, I bought an existing small music school. I started with 4 teachers and 35 students and for the next three years, I worked the pool business in the morning and the front desk of the Brill Music Academy in the afternoon/evenings. As part of building up the music school, I hosted a radio show for a short time. It was a lot of fun! Bringing music into the lives of children and adults is a wonderful thing and I was grateful to have been able to own this business.

After building the music school to two locations, with over 40 teachers, and about 475 students, in June, 2019, I decided to retire and sold the Brill Music Academy. In December, 2021, I decided that I wasn't quite ready to "not work" anymore. I joined the staff of Vegas Entertainment, working to develop an app for tourists and locals to provide current information about places to go, things to do, venues to visit, etc., while in Las Vegas. This free app also enables users to purchase tickets to local shows and events. The app is currently available in the Apple App Store (search for VegasNearMe to download) and is projected to be in the Android Google Play Store by the end of the year.

As others have said regarding retirement, "What free time?!" I enjoy learning new things to keep my mind active. Being the webmaster for the chorus and keeping everyone informed about barbershop stuff is something I enjoy doing. I read a lot, mostly historical fiction. I enjoy a few computer games, probably too much TV, and I have also sung in church choir. If I had more time, I think I'd like to get more involved with photography and videography..... maybe I can do those things when I grow up..... or retire for real.....

I played percussion in concert and marching bands in elementary, high school, and college. But Las Vegas has been my first experience with barbershop music, joining the City of Lights chorus in 1998. I had to stop singing in 2003 to concentrate on building my music academy, but returned to the chorus in 2011. I was the Music VP for the City of Lights for a short time and I've been the VP, Marketing & PR for both the City of Lights and the Silver Statesmen. We all have certain talents and I believe that we should use them to help others to the best of our ability and for as long as we can. I appreciate being a part of the Silver Statesmen Chorus and singing with all the guys is a high point of each week.

Christmas is Comin'

Presented by

The Las Vegas
Silver
Statesmen
Barbershop Chorus

With Special Guests from the
Lady Luck Showtime Chorus

Saturday, December 10th
2:00 p.m.

Winchester-Dondero Cultural Center
3130 McLeod Dr LV 89121

Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the door
or from your favorite Barbershopper.

Kids 12 & under are free



GORDON'S GAUNTLET OF WANDERING THOUGHTS

'Tis the season to be thankful, and am I ever thankful for the dedication of the members of the Silver Statesmen this year. It's truly a remarkable accomplishment to learn almost a dozen new songs through the summer for the Viva Las Vegas show, then a few more new Patriotic songs for Veteran's Day, and now whipping a monster medley and Christmas show together in short order. I just have to say thank you for your efforts.



I hope that your desired musical experience is being fulfilled by all of these performing opportunities and the music you are learning, but let us not forget any and all performances we have coming up before Christmas. After the 12/10 show and two performances on 12/21, we can relax with our families till the first of the year.

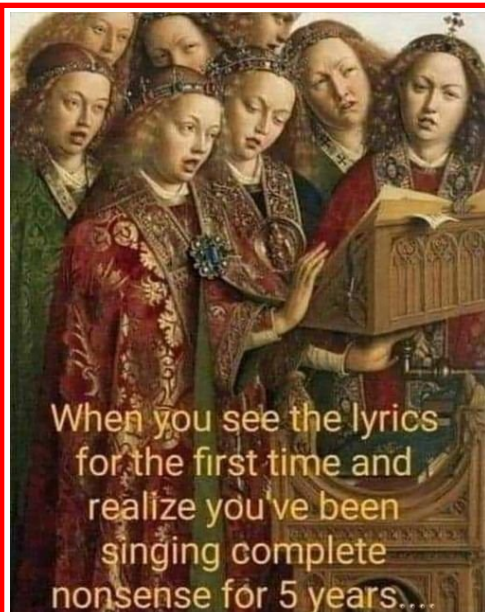
Sharing our music in the Barbershop style is very rewarding for me and, as you've realized by now, I value your opinion. Are there any additional colleagues, acquaintances, friends, or business associates that you haven't considered inviting yet? How about now?

As new members are joining our ranks, and they are, please continue to do your part as a goodwill ambassador of the chapter, making every effort to assist them in finding music, including them in tag singing, quartetting using the polecat songs, and generally making them feel good about the experience. If we intend to grow, these are crucial elements in making it happen.

As we finish 2022, I want to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad and/or Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Sing-cerely,

Gordon Lankenau



How to Stop the Throat Clearing Habit

Vocal performers, whether singing or public speaking, have rituals that they swear by. Some don't even know they run through these "habits" just before beginning their performance.

Throat clearing itself is identified in 2 instances: following a sickness, like a cold or upper respiratory infection, or a response to sensations in the larynx.

We refer to these sensations as "globus sensations": it's the feeling that something is "there" in your throat.

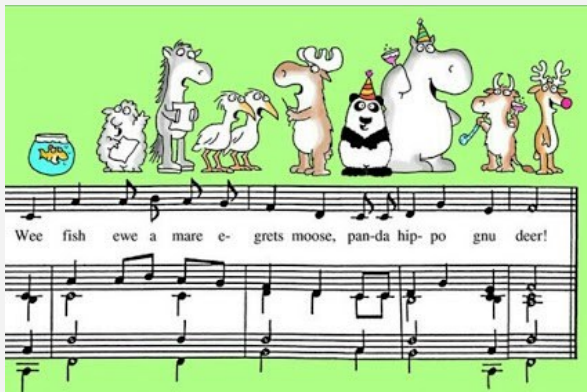
They can occur from reflux or vocal cord pathologies, and become exacerbated because the person experiencing the sensations becomes hypersensitive.

The harm that throat clearing can cause includes hyperfunction from phonotrauma, where the vocal cords collide too violently.

Clearing Yourself of Throat Clearing

So, how can you stop from giving in to this potentially harmful vocal habit if it is part of your pre-vocalizing routine?

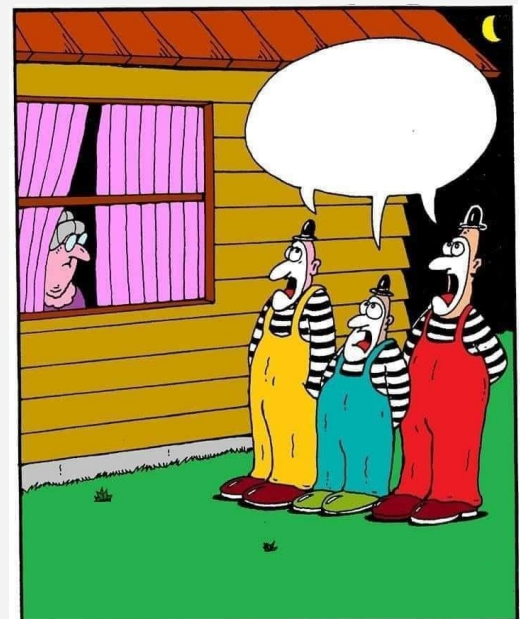
Try a forceful swallow, a sniff-and-swallow, or a forceful dog pant with abdomen movement. These behaviors can be used to replace and eventually desensitize you from the habit.



Happy Holidays



OH MERRY CHRISTMAS
BARBERSHOPPERS



The mime Christmas carolers performed a heartfelt rendition of "Silent Night."

HOW SINGERS CAN AVOID VOCAL FATIGUE

Just breathe, guys. The majority of the causes of vocal fatigue are the effect of improper and/or inefficient breath support. If a singer does not have stable and consistent support for their sound, then the body will adapt by using other less efficient and often damaging ways of getting the sound out.

If a singer is singing correctly the voice should not tire. Singing should feel good. If it does not, then your body is giving you a signal that something is not right with the way you are producing sound. A singer should never feel fatigue after a voice lesson. I have heard singers say that past teachers have told them that their muscles might get tired while adapting to a different singing technique. This is a red flag that the teacher is not properly educated. Proper vocal technique will never tire the voice. It should be considered a red flag to any student if their teacher does not take vocal fatigue seriously because it can lead to future vocal damage if not addressed.

Here are a few things that can cause vocal fatigue:

1. Belting, which I define primarily as pushing too much chest voice too high up in the scale).
2. Smoking and/or drinking alcoholic beverages.
3. Periods of excessive and unsupported loud talking—for example, trying to have a conversation over the DJ at a loud party.
4. Singing with a high larynx, which manifests most often as pushing the larynx up in the throat to “help” the pitch rise.
5. Tongue tension, primarily manifesting as a grabbing or bearing down by the base of the tongue onto the larynx while singing to create the perception of a richer tone.
6. Singing without proper soft palate space.
7. Jaw tension while singing, which does not allow for the proper stretch of the soft palate.
8. Pushing too much breath pressure through the larynx.
9. Singing with the head/neck pushed forward, as though the singer were reaching for the notes out or up in front of him.
10. Lack of stable diaphragmatic support for breath so the singer ends up “supporting” their sound by other detrimental, unintended means.

**“Only a musician would
try to figure out what key
the doorbell is in.”**

Silver Statesmen Calendar
Events Remaining For
2022

NOVEMBER

12th - Veterans Day Show - 2:00 p.m. - Clark County Library Theater, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, LV 89121

13th - Veterans Day Show - 2:00 p.m. - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, LV 89113

DECEMBER

10th - Christmas Show - 2:00 p.m. - Winchester-Dondero Cultural Center, 313– McLeod Dr, LV 89121

21st - Christmas Songs - 1:00 p.m. - Cleveland Clinic Brain Center, 888 W Bonneville Ave, LV 89106 (Good Times! Quartet)

21st - Nutcracker Suite Pre-Show - 5:45 p.m. - Smith Center (Lobby), 361 Symphony Park Ave, LV 89106

22nd - Chorus Dark - No Rehearsal

29th - Chorus Dark - No Rehearsal

Your Daily Chuckles

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me....

They told me I had Type A blood, but it was a Type O.

Why were the Indians here first? Because they had reservations...

I put a cap on top of my computer and then couldn't take it off..... Then I discovered the CAPS LOCK was on!!

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting the bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian.

Where did the pirate get his hook? At the second-hand store...

Where are average things manufactured? At the Satisfactory.

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu... You get what you deserve.

What happens when the Newsletter Editor has to come up with his own content? THIS:

After complaining about persistent Hoarseness that had hung on for more than Three weeks, a barbershopper sought advice From a fellow chapter member who offered Quite an unusual remedy. "Take this leather Thong and chew on a piece of it every day for a Month," came the suggestion, "then let me Know if your voice problem has been solved."

"How do you feel now?" the friend asked after The time-period was over.

"The thong is ended," was the reply, "but the Malady lingers on."

My neighbors listen to great barbershop groups....Whether they like it or not!

What has fifty feet and sings? The Silver Statesmen Chorus!

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."

