

The Las Vegas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

The

NUCKET

E-newsletter * April 2024

Editor: Greg Dreyer : greg.dreyer77@gmail.com, 702 612-7631



silverstatesmen.com

Events for 2024

4/13—National Barbershop Quartet Day Showcase—Winchester Dondero Cultural Center 2 pm **\$15.00**

4/14— Annual Pancake Breakfast 10 am -12 pm - Temple Sinai—**\$10 all you can eat**

5/11—Far Western District SE/SW Divisional Convention—Ontario, CA

5/27—Memorial Day gig at Woodlawn Cemetery 9:30 am (public event)

6/9 — “If The Lord Be Willin’” show at Windmill Library. 2 pm **Free admission!**

6/16— “If The Lord Be Willin’” show at Clark County Library. 2 pm **Free admission!**

6/29-7/6—Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention—Cleveland, OH

7/3—Silver Statesmen sing National Anthem at Las Vegas Ballpark for the Aviators (public event)

10/18-19—FWD Fall Convention Bakersfield, CA

11/11—Veterans Day events tba

12/14—Christmas Show Winchester Dondero Cultural Center 2 pm **\$20**

Spotlight on Members



George Stamos

Date & Place of Birth

6 Oct 1950 in Mineola, New York

While I was born on Long Island, New York, I didn't spend much time there. My family moved to southern Calif. when I was only a few months old. I grew up in Anaheim, about a mile and a half from Disneyland. I can vividly remember listening to the bands playing at the Tomorrowland Terrace, along with watching the nightly summer fireworks from my backyard. Many of my high school friends were 'characters' at the park. I also remember that one of the things we bored teenagers did was ride the parking lot tram at the Magic Kingdom until they kicked us off! After my parents split up, I moved to Las Vegas in 1974 with my mom. She and my aunt ran an antique shop located just south of the Tropicana Hotel. It was always filled with some interesting characters.

My first wife, Gretchen, and I were married for 30 years. We were blessed to adopt our daughter, Susannah, in 1994. Susannah lives here in town and works as a day spa supervisor, as well as a fitness instructor. Unfortunately, Gretchen passed away in 2013 after a lengthy illness. I went through a pretty rough time after my wife died, but God in His infinite grace led me to my wonderful wife Charlene who is the dazzling light of my life. I am now thrice blessed with three amazing kids, Susannah, Laura (Charlene's daughter), and Jeff (Laura's husband). Laura and Jeff were married in 2016. Unfortunately, we don't have any grandkids yet. However, we do have two utterly spoiled cats, Dinah and Benny. We pretty much exist just to feed and pet them. (Any cat owner will understand.)

I graduated from Anaheim High School where I "majored" in Theater. Getting involved in theater helped to transform me from being an awkward, shy nerd and gave me the self-confidence to become a success in life. My favorite role was playing the Wizard in the Wizard of Oz. I also went on to do some local community theater and was in such productions as Mame, Oklahoma!, and South Pacific, to name a few.

After attending Calif. State University, Fullerton for a couple of years, I transferred to UNLV. I received a B.A. degree in History and went on to do some graduate work in history before moving on to a professional career as a writer. While at UNLV, I was the managing editor of the student newspaper, The Rebel Yell. I'm still a rabid UNLV Rebel fan to this day.

(George Stamos continued)

I began working in the casino industry as Assistant P.R. Director at the Sahara Hotel & Casino. I then went on to hold similar P.R. advertising, and marketing positions at the Flamingo Hilton, the Sands, and the Castaways. I returned to So. Calif. for a few years, working for Hilton Hotels Corp. in their marketing and communications department. I produced the company's internal employee magazine which went out to more than 50,000 employees worldwide.

I returned to Las Vegas and went to work at R&R Advertising for 10 years as their senior copywriter. R&R is the ad agency that came up with the famous slogan "What Happens Here, Stays Here." After leaving R&R, I worked for 10 years as Marketing Communication Manager at Bally Technologies, a major manufacturer of gaming equipment. Most recently, I worked as a blogger and copywriter for a local digital marketing company specializing in the automotive industry. While I'm "semi-retired," I'm still doing some freelance writing for a digital marketing company that provides marketing services to the gaming industry.

I started singing in church choirs more than 30 years ago. I sang tenor with the Chancel Choir at Green Valley Presbyterian Church for more than 25 years. I also sang for a few years with the Las Vegas Musical Arts Society Chorus. I also was involved in some local theatrical productions, playing everything from the "butler who did it" to a grizzled old prospector.

Apart from singing, I enjoy playing guitar. Now, I don't play guitar the normal way. Unlike most other left-handed guitar players who reverse the strings, I take a regular guitar, flip it upside down and play it backward. It just felt more natural to play it this way. Drives other guitar players crazy! I'm also involved in both a theater group and a singing group in our Siena "age-privileged" resort community. (Which, by the way, is how I met fellow "bari" Vic Guder, which led to becoming a Silver Statesman.)

I also like to read science fiction novels, play video games - especially a medieval-themed game with dragons called "Skyrim" which is quite popular with the younger set. My wife and I relax watching some of our favorite TV programs, such as The Blacklist, House of Cards, Homeland, and Mr. Robot, to name a few. And of course, there's my favorite new avocation: **The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus!**

As a relative newcomer to barbershop, I'm being challenged to get out of my musical comfort zone to learn new things. Gordon is an amazing director and does a great job of getting us motivated and focused. I appreciate the sound (pun intended) advice I've received to help me improve my singing technique. I'm also enjoying getting to know my fellow Silver Statesmen and I look forward to building new and lasting friendships. We are, after all, more than a group of guys who like to sing. We're a brotherhood.

I also want to commend our leadership for their dedication and willingness to serve. We have a terrific organization that's only going to get better!

"It's Great To Be A Silver Statesman!"

Oh yeah!

President's Corner



Bill Robey



To my brothers in harmony;

It's been another month and the Silver Statesmen keep marching forward, never looking back.

Our tonal quality has improved dramatically and just keeps getting better! Our numbers are also increasing as new members join and past members ask for reinstatement.

I for one am very excited about the future of our chorus and our quartets.

Thank you all for your perseverance and commitment to making the Silver Statesmen the future talk of Las Vegas!

Your brother in harmony,



From our Director: Gordon Lankenau

A gauntlet of wandering thoughts . . .



For this month's article, consider your music habits. Have you been looking at your music every week, focusing especially on repetitious note patterns, tricky lyrics that are hard to remember, helping you identify challenges you encounter with your part range on certain songs. Develop an awareness of what your voice can do when warmed up (and how long that process might take), allowing all of us to share the best voice we have each week. Please take responsibility for your voice, so that your contribution on Thursday isn't the only singing you've done all week.

Have you been singing every day? (Singing in the shower counts). Sing your favorite song(s), and the ones you struggle with. Identifying the tonal center of each song and how often you are on that pitch, over time will train your ears to maintain the pitch better. Develop productive use of breath to support your voice and the sound you produce and make the resulting sound consistent. Use words, a neutral syllable (loo or doo), or hum your part (or the melody), using the full vocal range required by your voicepart. Use both your chest and head voice (tenors and basses included). Several songs in our current repertoire challenges our ranges.

So, build an awareness. Sing scales from the bottom up and the top down, singing through your break and determine the particular note or notes where your voice responds better with consistency as your voice has to transition between the two. The more you are aware of how your voice works, and how long it takes to respond as you want it to, and your vocal stamina to last without fatigue will add so much more to our Thursday evenings together, performances we have and even afterglows we attend. Stay hydrated, my friends.

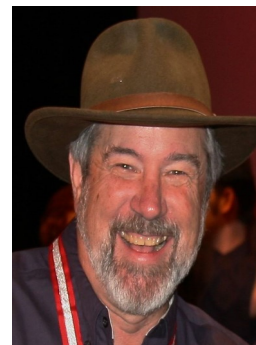
Sing-cerely,

Gordon

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."

Gary Bolles – 2024 Far Western District Spring Convention Honoree



Gary began “barbershopping” in 1964 in Providence Rhode Island in the Northeastern District. He sang in two district champion quartets and directed several choruses before moving to the Far Western District in 1978. He quickly made his musical mark, singing baritone in FWD District quartet champion as well as two FWD medalist quartets. He competed in International Quartet competition twelve times, reaching the semi-finals twice. More recently he has been active in Senior Quartet activities, competing a total of six times, winning three bronze and three silver medals. He directed the Bay Area Metro Chapter’s Pot O’ Gold from 1987 to 2002, leading them to district championships in 1995, 2000 and 2004. Under Gary’s direction BAM competed at the International Contest five times, placing as high as seventh.

In addition to his prowess as a performer Gary is also a highly sought after coach, working with both choruses and quartets which have gone on to win International Championships. For nearly twenty years Gary split his time between the US and New Zealand, and while down under he worked with choruses and quartets at all levels, some of which went on to place at the highest level in our International Contests, including the Musical Island Boys who won the championship in 2014. He was also instrumental in the design and Implementation of a Musical Director Trainer Training Program for Barbershop Harmony in New Zealand (BHNZ) which has resulted in the creation of two very successful programs, the BHNZ National Education Program and a Coach Training and Certification Program.

As a member of the international Contest and Judging community Gary served as a certified judge for over 35 years, first as an Interpretation Judge, where he also was Category Specialist, and then as a Music Judge and member of the Board of Review.

A BHS Harmony University faculty member for nearly 30 years, Gary has served on the faculties of many district and regional training programs including the Society’s former Chapter Officers Training Sessions (COTS) and Top Gun Schools all across the US and Canada.

Gary now lives in Henderson, NV and is a regular fixture at the chorus rehearsals for the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus.

Congratulations Gary!!



“High Stakes” Quartet competed in the top ten Finals at the Spring Convention in Fremont, California

Congratulations Kurtis, Camden, Jason and Antwun!



The **Si**iver
Statesmen

The **Silver** Statesmen

Patron Support

The Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus is supported by revenues from shows, membership dues and contributions from patrons. Many of you have been a contributor in the past and we appreciate your generosity.

Tier Levels of Patron Donations:

Bronze: \$25 (to have your name listed in our show program and on the chorus website)

Silver: \$50 (same as above, and receive two tickets to events like the Pancake Breakfast or Ice Cream Social)

Gold: \$100 (same as above plus receive two tickets to a paid performance)

Platinum: \$150 or more (same as above plus a free "Singing Valentine" in February)

Thank you for your continued support.

To contribute online: silverstatesmen.com

To contribute by mail: send check made out to **Silver Statesmen** to Greg Dreyer, 3639 La Junta Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89120

PATRONS 2024

PLATINUM

Fred & Debbie Green
Ernie & Vicki Krausman
David & Barbara Dorway
Wally & Marla Smulson
Jeff Homer
Greg & Nancy Dreyer
JD Massa
Mike & Darla Conner
Kenny & Renee Rios
Victor Onufrieff & Laurel Andrew
Bob & Jeri Amblad
Andrew Family Foundation
Roger and Karen Buehrer

GOLD

Cindy Cardwell (in memory of Herb Craig)
Jonathan & Robin Savar
Andrea Olson CPA Inc

BRONZE

Thomas Brill
Larry Paterson
Kurtis Harrold

On the lighter side



I don't want to say I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

**THIS DOOR
IS
ALARMED**

The Window is
Startled

... and the floor
is somewhat
taken aback

You should have fun when you sing. Like each other and share in the joys of making great music because you don't know when you won't be able to do so again.



Smile often . . .
It keeps other
people guessing

Come Sing With Us!!!

What: Weekly Chapter Meeting and Rehearsal

When: Thursdays 7-10 pm

Where: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
10265 Bermuda Rd. Las Vegas 89183



Our chorus and quartets love to sing for our audiences and to share our love of "Barbershop".

You are invited to join us to enjoy an evening of camaraderie and great barbershop harmony. Don't miss out on the fun! Come see what it's all about.

Silver Statesmen Annual Auction a big success!



Larry Paterson

Larry announced his retirement from distributing the “funny money” and needs a replacement. Step right up. Don't be shy!

At every chapter rehearsal or performance, Larry Paterson hands out chapter “funny money” to members. Criteria is loosely established but usually consists of attendance, wearing your name badge, smiling, setting up risers, performing any task above and beyond . . .

Auction items consisted of items purchased from Barbershop Harmony Society , Amazon or local stores. Members also brought in new or slightly used items from home to auction off.

Some items sold for as little as \$1000 or as much as \$800,000. After all, it's just “funny money”.

Member, David Dean, served as auctioneer and was very proficient at rattling the speedy increases in bids.



Sold!!!



David Dean
Auctioneer

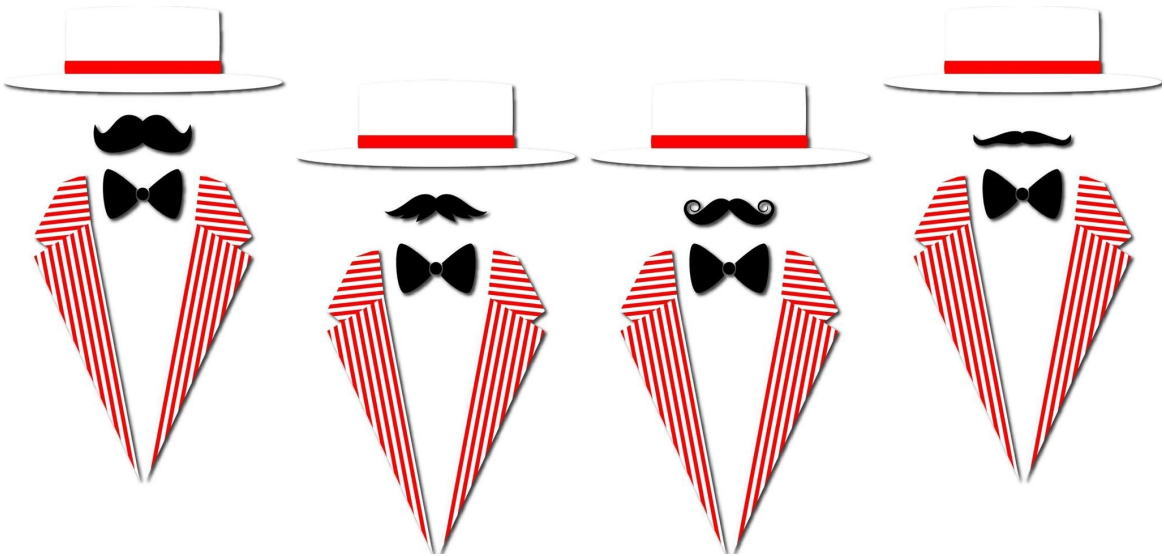
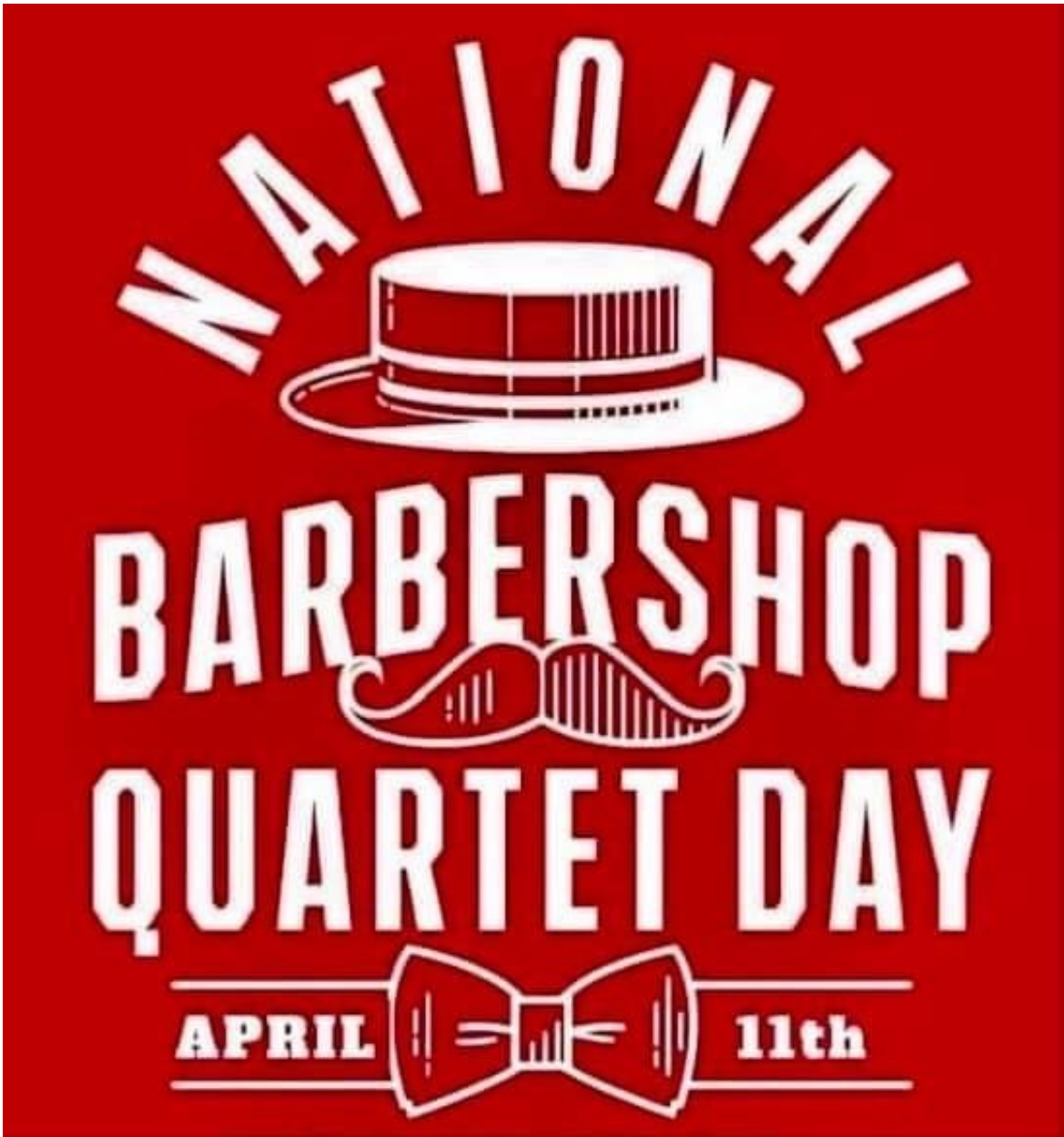
5 WAYS TO LIVE THE MUSIC

Everyone is looking for the newest way to emotionally sell a song. These five suggestions may produce options to get you, the performer, to a better place to share your message.

1. **Recognize what makes you feel an emotion.** Knowing how to access your own tears, fears, and smiles makes it easier to do so when you're singing a song.
2. **Use your own experiences.** Find your own experiences that can relate to the story you are telling. If you're trying to conjure up an emotion for a song that you don't personally resonate with, think of a time that you felt that emotion. Don't just use your imagination; use all your senses.
3. **Embody the music.** Ask the W questions—who? what? when? where? why?—about your experience or character to determine the motivations and why they feel the way they do. Genuine emotion comes easier when you fully understand your character's given circumstances and the objective driving them, not just in the entire song, but verse to verse, line to line, and moment to moment.
4. **Use active words.** Assigning an active verb to your lyric can help you find the intention and subtext behind the words you will sing and therefore help you know how to feel. If your line is "get out," the emotion on your face will be different with the active verb (hurt) than it would be with the verb (plead).
5. **Be completely present.** Singers/performers should have the goal to not have to think about showing emotion in the moment, but to live it in it. Don't analyze how you're going to react to the lyric and the music

5 WAYS TO LIVE THE MUSIC:

Cindy Hansen Ellis has for nearly 40 years helped BHS, SAI, and HI groups emotionally connect their music with their audiences. She is also judging for NACC, AEA, Nordonia A Cappella Festival, and more. CKHansenEllis@gmail.com



Clark County Parks & Recreation presents
National Barbershop Quartet Day

Silver Statesmen
Barbershop Chorus
& Quartets



Amazing Grays

Til Morning Comes



Good Times

Twilight



High Stakes

LIVE at Winchester Theater
Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 2 pm
Tickets \$15
Kids 12 and under are free

The **Silver**
Statesmen

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



togetherforbetter

**Temple Sinai Men's Club
& The Silver Statesmen Chorus**



**All Are Welcome
Sunday, April 14, 2024**

10:00am - 12:00pm

\$10 p/person All You Can Eat

Kids age 5 and under are Free

Entertainment by the Silver Statesmen

**Temple Sinai
9001 Hillpointe Road
Las Vegas 89134**

Tickets available from your favorite Barbershopper or
online at:

www.SilverStatesmen.com



We'll be onstage in Ontario!!!

