

Silver Statesmen Chorus: Emphasis on Fundamentals

By Peter Feeney

Under the leadership of Director Jim Halvorson, the Silver Statesmen Chorus began 2017 with a new and energized commitment to improve. Results have been more than gratifying. The chorus has revisited the polecat series and other barbershop chestnuts and has taken the time to try to sing these songs in near perfect harmony. The emphasis on polecats allows each member to develop individual skills, quartet level independence and expanded barbershop craft knowledge.

Currently the plan is to sing two polecats at the upcoming division contest in El Monte, California. The emphasis on the polecats and improving singing skills has been met with increased attendance and enthusiastic support by the membership. Here is an example of the impact on members. The following letter to the chorus was written by board member Phillip Spinks:



Hey guys! If you missed last night, you missed hearing Polecats like you've never heard them before. Our director, Jim said that in his about 20 years in Las Vegas, he's never had the chance to teach the high level stuff we're learning and that he has never heard Polecats sung as good as we are doing! The stuff we have been learning at our chorus rehearsals the last few weeks has really helped me sing more relaxed and I'm enjoying the personal improvement as well as the chorus advances. If you were at rehearsal this week, I hope you're as excited as I am to know how good we can sing and look forward to applying these principles to our next new songs just on the horizon.

--Phillip Spinks, VP Membership



Editorial

Welcome to the new Nugget. Many thanks to the previous editors of this newsletter. Their efforts in keeping the newsletter alive are much appreciated.

Our purpose in publishing The Nugget is to record the history of the chapter as well as to provide a voice for the leadership of the chapter and chapter members as well. All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication and to write letters to the editor. We also would like to publish pictures of the activities of the chapter. Please send all pictures and articles to me at peterfeeney@embarqmail.com.

The Nugget

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The Silver Statesmen

SilverStatesmen.com

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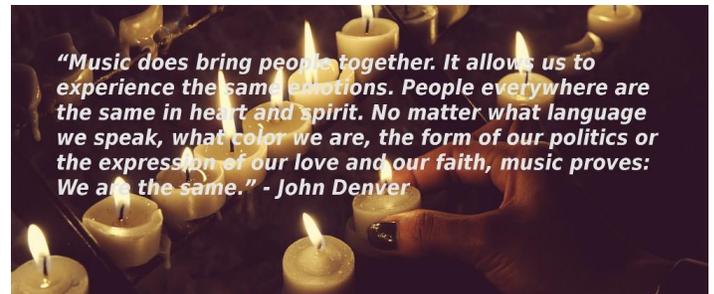
The Importance of Music in Our Daily Lives

By George Rachiotis,
www.truthinsideofyou.org

Music is the greatest creation of man, which touches the soul and also helps man to sympathetically manifest unspoken desire and humanity in him. The effect of music in man is what that separated him from other animals. Due to the high effect of music in the life of human being, it is capable of breaking boundaries to unit people from different background and cultural heritage. Indeed, there are lots to say about music making it one of the most important factors in the life of human being of all races and religions. In fact, music can best be described as wonderful force that is capable of bonding people together and instituting international brotherhood, love as well as peace. This article is dedicated to pinpoint some importance of music.

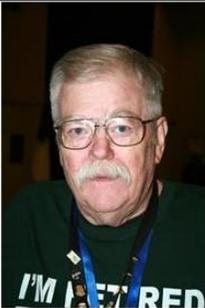
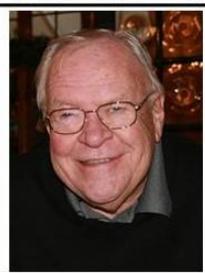
Music Draw People Together To Uplift Them Emotionally

Indeed, due to the power of music in the heart and bone marrow of human being, it can draw millions of people from different parts of the world and uplift them emotionally. For that reason, music can easily be used as instrument of peace when there is chaos between people of different origin and background. You can easily notice this particular effect of music when you have issue with your partner and he or she started playing music you love to hear. If you are a strong hearted human being you may not settle the issue due to the music but the annoyance in your mind will gradually subside just because of the music.



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Your 2017 Board of Directors

	Greg Dreyer President		Kenny Rios Executive Vice President		Martin Judd Secretary
	Wes White Treasurer		Gordon Lankenau Vice President Music		Phillip Spinks Vice President Membership
	Peter Feeney Vice President Marketing & PR		Albert Weiss Immediate Past President		Ivan Lambert Member at Large
			Antwun Puckett Member at Large		Drake Pyatt Member at Large

Installation of the Board

The 2017 board was installed on January 14, 2017 by Masters of Ceremony John and Janet Lenox in the dining room of the Three Square food bank in Las Vegas. John and Janet combined humor, creativity and just plain fun to usher in the new board. In addition

The award recipients:
 Barbershopper of the Year: Dick Morrison
 Rookie of the year: Richard Adler
 President's Award: Kenny Rios

to the installation of the new board awards were presented to some of our outstanding contributors to the chapter's success. A special award was presented to Larry Halvorson who made the trip from Sacramento to graciously accept the honor.

Director's Award: JD Massa
 Snack Queens: Ceci Pechart, Kelly Moulson
 Special Spirit Award: Larry Halvorson



Singing Valentines! Quartets Have Two Busy Days

Chapter quartets were busy on Monday and Tuesday, February 13 and 14, delivering singing valentines all around the Las Vegas valley and Boulder City. Those lucky people who received a singing valentine were treated to two lovely songs, a red rose, and a personalized card. One of our quartets, the Dapper Dudes were invited on to the set of Fox 5 News to serenade news anchor Monica Jackson.



Here are some pictures of some of the quartets



Sun City Sound



Dapper Dudes



Good Times



Sun City Sound



Good Times

2017 International Convention Preparations Well Under Way

Under the leadership of chapter president Greg Dreyer the Silver Statesmen and many of their wives and family are preparing for the arrival of the Barbershop Harmony Society in July. This is the second time in the past few years that the chapter has had the honor of hosting the international convention. The first was in 2014 at the MGM Grand. This one will be at the Planet Hollywood Axis Theater.



Operated by Live Nation, it was voted as one of the "Best Concert Halls & Theaters In Las Vegas". It is the largest theatre of its kind in the United States.

Dusty Schleier from BHS staff met with the convention committee on March 1 at the 7777 Bar and Grill in Las Vegas. Each committee chairman reported on progress and asked questions of Dusty to complete their report. There have been some significant changes from 2014. For example, registration now requires conventioners to produce a voucher that will be scanned by volunteers. The conventioner will then enter a que to obtain a printed name badge. The name badge will be the entry ticket to the events. This process will require most volunteers to stand for most of their shift.

There will be another meeting in April, but all committee chairmen were asked to complete their list of volunteers and give information to James Nelson. All volunteers were asked to provide their shirt size to James



Planet Hollywood

Film Facts about Planet Hollywood

Footage of the implosion of the original structure was used in the closing credits of the film *The Cooler*.

This casino was used in the filming of *Going in Style*.

Seasons One and Two of the A&E Network show *Criss Angel Mindfreak* were filmed at the resort.

The TLC show *Trading Spaces* took place at the Aladdin in a 2004 episode.

The Theatre for the Performing Arts was the site for the 2006 to 2012 Miss America pageants, the Miss USA pageants from 2008 to 2013, and hosted Miss Universe 1991, Miss Universe 1996, Miss Universe 2012 and the Miss Universe 2015.

The *Rambo* (2008) world premiere took place at Planet Hollywood on January 24, 2008.

The Planet Hollywood hotel is prominently featured in the movie *What Happens in Vegas* as the hotel where the Fullers stay and get married.

The movie *Transporter 3* had its world premiere at PH on November 21, 2008. Jason Statham was present for the premiere.

The movie *Race to Witch Mountain* was partly shot here for the space convention

The movie *The Expendables* premiered at PH in August, 2010. This was announced by a helicopter that was displayed on the PH casino floor.

A flashmob set to Midi Mafia's "PHamous" was performed by several YouTubers including Shay Carl and KassemG in November, 2009.

Scenes from *Get Him to the Greek* were filmed here.

The nearly completed structure can be seen in the 2009 film, *The Hangover*.

The Planet Hollywood hotel is briefly seen in the 2013 film, *The Hangover Part III*

The History of the Barberpole Cat Program.

By Ivan Lambert

Do you remember finally singing with three other fellows and having one of them tell you get off his note—and you didn't even know the chord was incomplete?

Do you remember the first time you were placed in a pickup quartet on a meeting night and asked to sing a number in front of the chapter? Well I do. I choked, lost my place and I was embarrassed—the harmony was not very good.

Do you know the history of the Society's quartet singing program?

In 1971, International President Ralph Ribble launched a new Society activity known as the Barberpole Cat Program. Its purpose was to encourage as many Barbershoppers as possible to become involved in quartet singing. The program introduced men to the joy of singing with three other guys

The January-February, 1971 issue of the Harmonizer article titled "Ralph Ribble – 20 Years a Barbershopper, Quartetman", describes Ralph as a Barbershopper that spent nearly half of his life dedicated to barbershopping and centered in quarteting.

In the spring of 1951, with just after a few months' apprenticeship in the Dallas Chapter, Ralph organized and sang lead in his first quartet- the Mell-O-Notes.

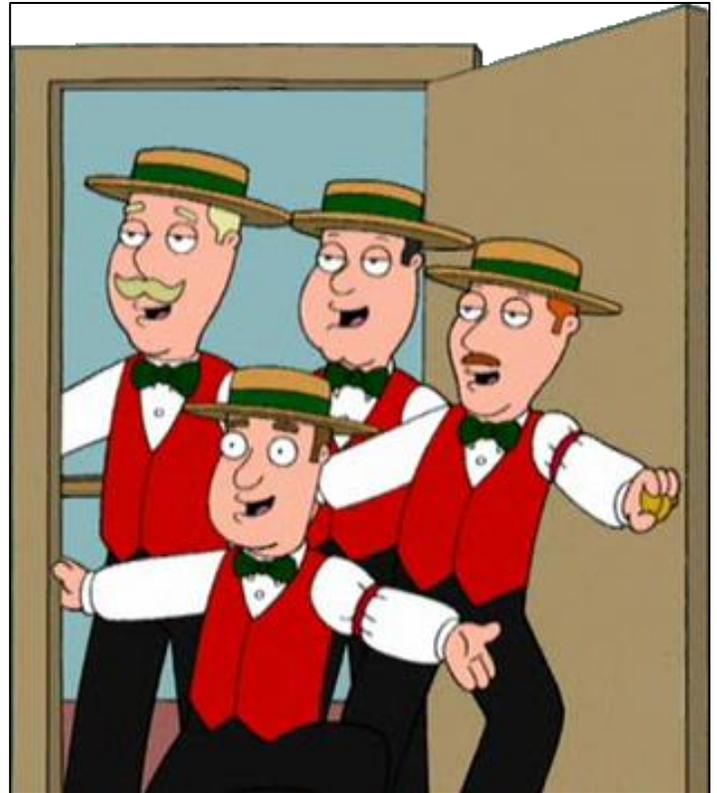
Ralph not only sang, at the age of 15 he played violin in a string quartet. He began violin lessons in fourth grade. He directed several church a cappella choirs. In fact, his 2 daughter and wife were members of the Ribblettes. Two of his amateur arrangements, "Give Me a Band and My Baby" and "Look for the Silver Lining" were sung at international competition.

Ralph Ribble was the Vice President and Commercial Loans Officer at the North Park National Bank of Dallas. One day a bank guard told him about "some barber group downtown that sang a lot. He almost became un-glued when he first heard barbershop harmony sung by the Dallasaires, one of the top quartets in the early 1950'

Ralph was a complete Barbershopper. His leadership experience included becoming a chapter officer, district officer, and South West District President. He was member of numerous quartets as well as establishing other chapters in the Dallas area

As president of SPEBSQSA, Ralph, had a program for the society titled "Challenge-Personal Pride. This resulted establishment of the Barberpole Cat program.

More recently a new generation of Barberpole Cats was published. The song book II is designed to bridge the gap between Polecat songs and music at a difficulty level of many of Harmony Brigades sing.



What is the purpose of learning to sing polecats correctly?

We learn the correct notes

Improves our quality

We deliver a better product

Honors our unique art form

Sustainability of our habit

These songs never sounded so good. I hear notes and other parts I never heard before.

References:

Barberpole Cat Song Book Volumes I and II

The Harmonizer January- February 1971, March-April 1971, and September -October 1971

Jim Halvorson, Director Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus





FWD Holds International Prelims and Two Division Contests in Sacramento

Las Vegas quartet, Friday Matinee competing out of Division, qualified to compete at the FWD Contest in the fall in Bakersfield, California. James Nelson, Steve Salmon, Kurtis Harrold and Phillip Spinks scored an average of 69.6 per songs, per judge to safely meet the qualifying score to compete in the fall. The quartet sang a total of four songs: “When There’s Love at Home”, “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad”, “For Sale, One Broken Heart”, and “Firefly”.



Friday Matinee
James Nelson, Steve Salmon, Phillip Spinks, Kurtis Harrold

The annual high school contest was also held in Sacramento and finishing second was the high school quartet representing the Silver Statesmen, Green Valley and Desert Oasis High Schools, Split Decision. The quartet, CJ Miller, Adam Matthews, Drake Pyatt, and Artwun Puckett, sang two songs, “Honey Little Eyes” and “Sweet and Lovely”. The quartet finished behind a quartet from Santa Maria, California, The Four Chordsmen.



Split Decision
CJ Miller, Antwun Puckett, Adam Matthews, and Drake Pyatt

One quartet qualified for International competition this summer in Las Vegas at the BHS International Convention at Planet Hollywood. The New Fangled Four. Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski and Jake Tickner, scored an average of 83.3 per song per judge to earn their way to the Las Vegas competition. The New Fangled Four are the only quartet from the Far Western District that has qualified, but quartets can also qualify in division contests with the approval of the District. Las Vegas will probably host at least two quartets from the FWD in July.



The New Fangled Four
JoeyBuss, Jackson Niebrugge, Jake Tickner, Ryan Wsniewski



BHS To Hold Senior Chorus Festival at Midwinter

The Society is currently planning to present five senior choruses at the Midwinter convention to be held in Costa Mesa, California in January 2018. The Society will select five senior choruses from those districts that submit audition tapes. Each district is invited to form a senior chorus comprised of men, including the director, age 55 or older. The chorus will be judged by a certified panel and awarded a score at the district level. The tapes will then be sent to Nashville and the top five scoring choruses will sing in Costa Mesa.



The FWD is currently developing the procedure for men to participate in the Senior Chorus. Expect details soon.



The Fog City Singers Northwest Division Champions 2017

The Barbary Coast Chapter captured first place in the Northwest Division Chorus Contest and qualified for fall competition.. .

Quartet News from Broadcast



Broadcast has had a busy first quarter of the year having completed six performances at assisted living facilities throughout the valley. In addition the quartet did a singing Valentine at an elementary school as well as one with the assistance of Albert Weiss standing in for John Waugh at the Berkshire Hathaway office in Henderson. The foursome also paid a visit to an elderly gentleman recovering from a stroke in Pacific San Martin rehabilitation hospital.

Our Website, Broadcastquartet.com, and Facebook pages had nearly 50 visitors during the quarter, which have led to three more performance in each of the upcoming three months, as well as the annual visit to University United Methodist Church in the summer.

Our repertoire now numbers nearly 125 songs, including a new gospel song, "Yes Indeed" a new novelty number, "If They String Me Up, I'll Never Live It Down" and an old standby "Back in the Old Routine" with a new intro. If anyone is in need of a fun quartet for birthdays, anniversaries, special entertainment at parties, etc., contact Roger at [702-873-7683](tel:702-873-7683)



Voices of California Northeast Division Champions 2017

The California Delta Chapter captured first place in the Division Chorus Contest. Two Silver Statesmen now sing with the Voices of California Chorus, Larry and Dallas Halvorson. In addition, Larry and Dallas sing together with Mike Stewart and Brent Freitas in the quartet "Capitol Ring", winner of the Northeast Division Contest and qualifier for competition in the fall.

Silver Statesmen to Sing National Anthem

The Chorus has been invited to make a return appearance at Cashman Field to sing the National Anthem before the Las Vegas 51's baseball game on June 16, 2017.



It appears the singing of the National Anthem dates back before the Star Spangled Banner was adopted as such in 1931. In 1918 game one of the World Series was played in Chicago as the Cubs faced the Red Sox from Boston. Babe Ruth was on the mound for Boston. The Chicago crowd was glum as the Red Sox had their way with the Cubs, but during the seventh inning stretch a military band, on hand to play for the crowd, played the Star Spangled Banner. The U.S. was then engaged in World War I and patriotic feelings ran deep. Playing third base for the Red Sox was a player on furlough from the Navy, Fred Thomas. As the band began to play he snapped to attention at his position and saluted the flag. His team mates also faced the flag with their hands over their hearts. Slowly at first the crowd did the same and by the end of the Anthem the crowd was singing the Anthem with great enthusiasm. Thus, a tradition was born!

Making Waves

By Brian Sellnow

You may not have thought about it, but barbershoppers need to be mathematicians as well as performers. Just like playing billiards, there is some science and numbers behind our artistry. We all know that our chords need to “lock and ring”, but what makes them do so? Why, when we try to play a barbershop chord on the piano or an electronic device, does it not sound right?

The reason is that sound travels in waves. The amplitude is how loud the sound is, and the pitch is determined by the frequency. The lower the frequency, the lower the sound. A low A is 220 hertz (cycles per second). Middle A, an octave above that, is at 440 hertz. Notice that the frequency is exactly doubled. When waves are combined, the amplitude is added or subtracted, depending on their position relative to each other. Since the two waves from low A and middle A coincide at

their peaks, we hear a resonance that makes the sound much louder. By the way, noise cancellation technology does the exact opposite – it generates waves that are the opposite of incoming waves, and the two add up to zero, creating a silent zone.

When we sing a chord, the notes in the chord are likewise governed by mathematical relationships. The relationship of the third to the root is 5:4. If we start on a low A with a frequency of 220 hertz, the third should come in at 275 hertz. If we look at the frequencies that pianos are tuned to, we see that the C is set to 261.626 hertz, which is rather flat. The reason is, pianos are tuned using “equal temperament”, which averages the notes out across the octave. That allows different chords and key signatures to be played, at the cost of some fidelity in actual tuning. So when we sing, we know that we need to aim high when singing the third (even if you didn't know why before). The fifth note for an A major chord should be at a nice even 3:2 ratio, or 330 hertz. Pianos are tuned to 329.628 – close enough that many can't hear the difference. If we're singing a seventh, the ratio is 15:8, which for this chord would be 412.5 hertz – somewhat below the G sharp on the piano. This is one of the reasons why it's so important to know what part of the chord you are singing, and why you can't play a barbershop chord on a piano.



The combination of waves explains why chords “lock and ring” – or don't. If the singers are able to sing at the proper frequencies, then the waves will line up and reinforce each other. If the singers are not in tune, then we hear a wavering dissonance (at small variations) or muddy and muffled sound. In larger ensembles, two singers who are supposed to be on the same note can interfere with each other because they're generating conflicting waves. Singing louder generally does not fix this. If you sing with accuracy and unit sound, you can actually sing softer and produce a louder sound because all of the waveforms will combine rather than interfere with each other. For a practical example of this, try humming into your pitch pipe. If you are flat or sharp, you'll hear a wavering sound as the two frequencies interfere with each other. If you're on pitch, it will suddenly sound much louder, even though you're still humming at the same volume.

Sound waves are also modulated. Electronic devices produce a simple sine wave, a pure tone that sounds unpleasant to us because it's unmodulated. Flutes produce a similar curved wave. Trumpets, with their brassy sound, produce more of a

square wave. A human voice will produce a fairly complex wave, with lots of little spikes and valleys. Each of us has a unique voice wave pattern, due to our physiology. Your tongue, your sinus cavity, and the way you hold your jaw when singing all play a role in how you sound. People with similar voice patterns generally sound better when singing together. Fortunately, we can consciously modulate our voices. We can choose to sing bright and nasal, or dark and throaty, or somewhere in between. The way we shape our vowels also changes the modulation of our voice.

Modulation also affects how waves combine. Sound waves with similar modulation will combine more effectively, while sound waves of the same frequency but different modulation will interfere with each other and result in a muddy sound. That's why

you can sing the exact right note but still not hear that “lock and ring” when singing in a quartet, and that’s why unit sound is so critical when singing in a larger ensemble. You may have a beautiful voice, but if you aren’t blending in with the rest of the section, you’re actually detracting from the sound of the chorus.

The best way to ensure you’re singing correctly is to listen. If you can’t hear the melody, you’re singing too loud. If you can’t hear the other members in your section, you’re singing too loud. If you can’t feel the chord, adjust your voice to fit the chord and match the other singers. And finally, listen to the director when he talks about chord structures and vowel sounds. Our audience will appreciate it, and you will as well – there’s nothing like ringing a barbershop chord!



April (tba)	Meeting with Dusty for planning of the International Convention
April 22-23, 2017	Silver Statesmen Show performance at the Boulder City Art Show (details forthcoming)
May 13, 2017	Southern California Divisional Competition El Monte, CA
June 16, 2017	National Anthem at the 51's Baseball Game 7:05 pm
June 25, 2017	Pancake Breakfast
July 2-9, 2017	International Barbershop Convention – Las Vegas, NV
September 23	Potential date for all day rehearsal
October 20-21, 2017	FWD Fall Convention - Bakersfield, CA
November, 2017	Real Men Sing

(Continued from page 2)

Music Helps Human to Express Him or Herself with Ease

Whether you are music enthusiast or not, the best way you can express your feelings, anger, love, passion, joy and other kinds of feelings is simply through music. It is rightly said that when words and letters failed the best option is music. You will be able to express the intent of your heart through music which ordinarily may not be possible for you to either do in words or letters.

Music Has Therapeutic Effect in the Life of Human

In most cases, doctors and therapists normally recommend soft music for their patients. This is because, with the effect of the music in the heart and entire being of a sick person, there will be

revival of hope of living, joy of existence and happiness in the mind of the sick person making it easy for the him or her to respond positively to treatment.

Music Is the Perfect Way to Communicate Word of Love

Probably, you have been searching for a way to reignite love and passion in your relationship with your spouse that is simply because you have not tried music. Really, no matter the pain in the heart of your spouse, the best solvent you need to melt the pain and replace the space with love and passion is simply gentle and soft music. In fact, music is love, peace, passion, creativity and music is capable of enchanting both the heart of man and God.

At last, since music is such a big part of our lives, it would be interesting and useful to have a look at some of the ways we react to it without even realizing and how music benefits your brain. Learn more, [here](#).



A Message from Our President, Greg Dreyer

Let me start by stating some of our accomplishments

Our “youthful” membership has grown consistently

We have lowered our average age of members in the chorus

We have established our “brand”, that of the Silver Statesmen, throughout the Far Western District and at home here in Nevada and more particularly, here in Las Vegas

We have an established website and an ongoing presence throughout Social Media

We have stability in our financial structure produced through show revenue and fundraising

We have been instrumental in engaging community outreach with two other male choruses in Las Vegas which also led to the participation in the “Real Men Sing” Event which put over 300 men and boys, ages 12 to 86, on the risers

We hosted the Far Western District Spring Convention and Divisional Competitions in March, 2016. In addition to that, we are repeating as the host chapter for the 2017 International Convention.



- Attracting and maintaining 100 members in the Silver Statesmen Chorus
- Enhancing our musicianship and raising our default level of competence, in other words, reaching and stretching our potential
- Continuing with financial stability
- Continuing to have fun
- Becoming a participant **on stage** at an international convention

The Silver Statesmen chorus is relatively new, but is very strong and has a rich history! We have a great board of directors taking on the responsibilities for the administration of the chorus and we have one of the best Music Directors in the country. Our sound is much improved and our enthusiasm is contagious. We have ambitious plans for our future and a strategy to make us successful. In addition to

our concerts and shows, we have opportunities for community outreach that extend throughout the valley.

2017 should be a banner year for the Silver Statesmen as we continue to reach our potential and then push past it to reach new heights.

Let’s continue to enjoy the ride!!!