



THE VOICE OF RUSHMORE

MT. RUSHMORE CHAPTER "SHRINE OF DEMOCRACY CHORUS"
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Volume 18

December 2016

Number 12

Busy, Busy, Busy!

December is always a busy time for the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus**. With all of our outside performances, it is probably the busiest time of any year.

There are always performances for our seniors and others at retirement homes and convalescent facilities. Then, too, we always, for the past few years, are invited to sing at the State Capitol in Pierre for their annual **Festival of Trees**. We have also had the opportunity to sing at **Storybook Island** many years. Some years we have had the opportunity to put on special performances in outlying communities, spreading the Christmas spirit and the joy of Barbershop style a cappella singing to new audiences. (*Why not recruit members from these areas?*)

This year we have the opportunity to sing a special program in Lead in conjunction with **The Potter Family**, at their request. It has meant that we have had to stretch our musical chops by learning to sing in Latin, and in an a cappella style that is definitely not Barbershop.

Now, some may say, "*Why are we singing that? It's not Barbershop!*" Honestly, one of the advantages of it is that it shows that we, as a chorus, are more than one-dimensional in what we sing. Barbershop is great, but it shouldn't be to the exclusion of other styles of music that are just as good.

Christmas is a great time of year to spread the joy of 4-part a cappella singing to people throughout our areas. Let's make this season the greatest for the people we entertain. Let's show them that we are the best entertainment in the area!



Calendar of Events

Homestake Opera House

December 3

Lead, S.D.

Perform with **The Potter Family**

Chapter Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m.

Rapid City Library, Room A

Christmas Caroling

December 8

Clarkson Mtn. View, Holiday Hills & St. Martin's

Storybook Island Performance

December 16, 7 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

December 15

Echo Ridge, Primrose & Somerset

Christmas at the Capitol

December 17

Pierre, S.D.

Holiday Happening

December 18, 2-5 p.m.

Bob & Rhonda Westman's home
Piedmont, S.D.

Christmas Caroling

December 22

Victorian & Westhills Village

BHS Midwinter Convention

January 17-22, 2017

San Antonio, Texas

ACDA Convention

Friday, January 20, 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, R.C.

Annual Spring Show

May 13, 2017

Performing Arts Center
Guest Quartet, **Vocal Spectrum**



President:

Al Kelts

VP Member Development:

Dan Horsley

VP Music & Performance:

Jim Price

Secretary:

David L'Esperance

Treasurer:

Ron Evenson

Immediate Past President:

Steve Ferley

Members at Large:

Jessica Kading – Marketing & PR

Gary Welsh

Rod Pfeifle

Wayne Anderson

Lynn DesLauriers

Appointments

Music Director:

Clayton Southwick

Assistant Directors:

John Elving

Jim Price

Chorus Manager:

Pete Anderson

Chorus Contact:

Pete Anderson

Music Librarian:

Open

2017 Show Chair:

Pete Stach

Harmony Happening Co-Chairs:

Pete Stach

Rod Pfeifle

Bulletin Editor-in-Cheap:

John Elving

Webmaster:

Ken Weybright

The Voice of Rushmore is published monthly and is the official publication of the Mt. Rushmore Chapter of the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter is the home of the *Shrine of Democracy Chorus*. The chapter and chorus meet each Thursday evening from 7 p.m. in the choir room at the Rapid City Performing Arts Center.

For more information visit our website, www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org.

Correspondence about content and contributions for publication should be sent to the editor. All material in *The Voice of Rushmore* may be reproduced without permission; please credit the author and *The Voice of Rushmore* in all reprints, thanks.

John Elving

leaderman@midco.net

605.381.9680

Print off two copies of this newsletter to share—one with your family and one with someone you are bringing to a chapter meeting. Let them know they belong here!



We Welcome This Guest

David Sommers
Former Member

Welcome New Member

Brady Zietlow
Man of Note
Pete Anderson

Visit us online at:

www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org

CHAPTER QUARTETS!



Black Hills Blend

Al Kelts, tenor
Pieter Wouden, lead
Wayne Anderson, baritone
Pete Anderson, bass

High Mileage

David L'Esperance, tenor
Jim Olson, lead
Al Pitts, baritone
Chuck Knowlton, baritone
Del Beck, bass

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter and the *Shrine of Democracy Chorus* meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Meetings and rehearsals are held in the Performing Arts Center Choir Room (through the South St. entrance) in Rapid City. All guests are welcome. All men are welcome to come sing with us. For more information, call (605) 209-3701.

Here's to another year closer to



velcro shoes

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Jeff Elving December 3
Justus Kane December 7
Pete Stach December 11
Greg Watson December 20
Lynn DesLauriers December 28

BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE
Chapter Secretary



CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting for November 2016 of the Board of Directors of the Mount Rushmore Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was called to order by **President Al Kelts** at 7:03 p.m. on November 8, 2016 in Conference Room A of the Rapid City Public Library. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum, and a written proxy appointment was in hand for **Gary Welsh**, who was in Costa Rica. **Principal Chorus Director Clayton Southwick** was also present. The proposed agenda was approved.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Kelts officially welcomed **Jessica Kading** to the board. She will head the Marketing and Public Relations for the chapter. Jessica reminded the board that they are all players in this arena and it must be a team effort to be successful. President Kelts was pleased with the turnout at the performance at the Library November 5, and realizing it was a library setting, he was still surprised at how "dead" the acoustics were. He also reminded members of Rocky Mountain Harmony College 2017, which takes place at Estes Park, Colo., April 20-23.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Ron Evenson reported the chapter remains strong financially. The sponsorship sales will need to be well pushed to raise significant monies for 2017. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Music and Performance VP Jim Price and Director Southwick concurred with President's Kelts' thoughts on library acoustics but felt the chorus still performed very well. Jim noted he was very impressed with Stevens High School's boys choruses; they have 42 sing-

ers in their main group and sing very well. Application has been made to the **American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)** for us to sing for their convention in January 2017.

Membership/Chapter Development VP Dan Horsley reported many fliers have been distributed inviting men to join the Group for the Christmas season at the retirement centers and even Pierre; so far no takers.

Marketing and Public Relations VP Jessica Kading noted there are many unexplored avenues for improving getting the word out about our excellent product. She reiterated that it must be a full team effort by the entire chorus, not just herself. Members had some good ideas to share, and committed to helping bring those ideas to fruition.

Director Southwick continues to meet with **The Potter Family** about the **Homestake Opera House** performance December 3. As it now stands, we will perform our Christmas package and then the family will perform their show. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

Singing Valentines Chair Steve Ferley has recruited two workers for the committee, but reports we need at least two solid quartets to perform deliveries. At the current time we don't have any "working" ensembles.

Steve is also chair of the officers and board nominating committee and finally has a slate formed. The names will be presented three times to the chapter for the elections.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Ferley is also tasked with setting up the installation banquet. He's working on the date of January 28, probably at the same venue as last year, the newly renamed RUSHMORE Hotel.

Treasurer Ron Evenson offered a motion to present a donation of \$500 to Storybook Island during our performance on December 16. Seconded by David L'Esperance, the motion was unanimously approved.

Member-at-large Wayne Anderson presented each board member with a "custom" CD of learning tracks, part predominant and mix, for songs being strongly considered for the 2017 Show.

NEXT MEETING//ADJOURNMENT:

After some discussion, the next meeting, for the month of December, was hereby established for December 6 at the Library. With no further business for the good of the chapter, one of the shortest meetings in recent history (62 minutes) was declare adjourned..

Respectfully submitted

In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary



Al Kelts
2016 President



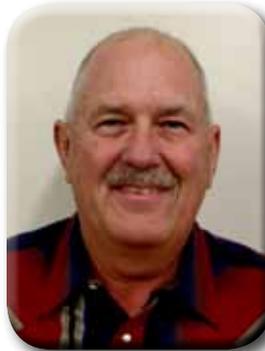
As I looked around the SOD Chorus for possible biographical “stories,” my gaze fell upon a tall (very), dark (?), handsome (?), and quiet (very) bass standing next to Pete Anderson... Mark Burgad. With some persuasion, Mark agreed to tell his “story,” one filled with happiness and success, but also sadness.

Sixty three years ago, Mark started his life in Burnstad, N.D., a town with a population of 13, 70 miles east of Bismarck, ND. His dad was a rural mail carrier and his mom a homemaker for Mark and his younger sister, and, later, secretary to the County Agent. Mark’s elementary school at Burnstad consisted of two rooms and two teachers, one for grades 1-3 and the second for grades 4-6. For his junior and senior high, he was bused to the thriving metropolis of Napoleon, ND, population 1500. Although Mark looks like a good “fit” for football, he missed several football practices because of his avid passion for hunting ducks and geese, and so he quit football. (Interestingly, Rod Pfeiffle and he went to high school together and their dads hunted and fished together.) However, goose and duck hunting did allow him to play basketball and the team did very well in their district. He also sang in their SATB chorus and actually did a duet for their show: **“Daddy Sang Bass and Mama Sang Tenor”**... hhhmmm.

After high school, Mark did one year at North Dakota State School of Science at Whapeton, N.D. in architectural drafting. The course work was “not his favorite thing” and his draft number was 53, so he decided to join the Army for three years in order to have some choice in his Army career. This 19-year-old guy was sent to a base to wait assignment. He indicates that every day all the enlisted men sat in a room as officers came by and asked questions, such as, “Who can cook?” “Who can drive truck?” “Who can type?” It suddenly occurred to Mark, “I took typing in high school and could type 32 words per minute!” So he raised his hand and became an office person in the Army. He was assigned to various posts around the United States, including Kansas, Washington, California, and New Jersey and even Germany, but never Vietnam!

At 22 years of age, Mark began his education again at North Dakota State University under the GI bill. Mark received a huge shock when he began playing basketball on Tuesdays and Thursdays with other NDSU basketball players: “They were much bigger physically than me!” So he did not play basketball nor did he sing in a college cho-

rus. He received his degree in Construction Management with a minor in Mechanical Engineering. During this time, he met Mary Lynn, a woman from Western North Dakota (Reeder), who worked in Nursing Home Administration. Since they both liked Western South Dakota, they moved to Rapid City where he went to work for Border States Electric and she worked as an administrator at Meadowbrook Nursing Home. They had one son who now lives in downtown Chicago and works for FedEx.



After five years, Mark joined the Wages Agency (Missoula, Mont.) as a manufacturing representative, selling lighting fixtures in South Dakota and Wyoming. After one and half years the boss retired and, subsequently, Mark’s new partnership went sour due to “partner problems.” Therefore, he started his own lighting company in Rapid City, **The Lighting Connection**. He successfully ran his own business for several years, i.e., he would visit the Construction Industry Center (Plans Exchange), look at construction plans, and make bids for lighting contracts. His business thrived because he was the only local person bidding on lighting contracts. One of Mark’s favorite extracurricular activities was the Shriner’s Clowns; he loved performing as a Shriner Clown and even became an officer in the International Shriner Clown Society, rising to President.

After 26+ years of marriage, tragedy hit when the love of his Life, Mary Lynn, was diagnosed with cancer. In spite of aggressive treatment, including at the Mayo Clinic, she deteriorated over the next two years. Mark could not leave her alone, so he stayed at home and gradually let his business dwindle, i.e., “I went into forced retirement.” When Mary Lynn died of her cancer in 2014: “It killed her and sucked the life out of me.”

However, as you recall, Rod and Mark went to high school together and both married North Dakota women involved in the medical field. Their friendship, as couples, was rekindled when living in Rapid City and continued throughout Mary Lynn’s illness. After a few months, Rod visited Mark and said: “You gotta get out of this house!” Following that statement, he invited Mark to a SOD Chorus practice. Although his grief is still strong, Mark has become a faithful member of our bass section and is even going back to Shriner Clown meetings.

Mark says:

- “People out here are old-fashioned. They care about other people.”
- “At times, I have thought of myself as *The Grumpy Old Man of the Hills*.”
- “Life has twists and turns—good and bad.”
- “Sometimes, you have to pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start over again.”

AL



We're Not Alone...

Sound Familiar?

From *The Chordsman Chronicle*
R.F. Miller, Editor

This past Monday night I unfortunately was unable to sing due to a slight sore throat and its effect on my vocal cords. So I decided to sit out in front so I could get a better sense of the ensemble sound and hopefully offer critique, both positive and negative.

Trevor programmed songs from our learned repertoire and upcoming show tunes. As the chorus worked with Trevor on "*Blackbird*," the overall sound and visual performance was solid, as we would expect being a previous show tune. Riser etiquette was in place and some good ol' fashioned woodshedding was at hand.

And then it happened. Trevor moved forward into 2017 show music and, well... we took a step backward. Much to my surprise came a totally different chorus sound, mainly due to many members stumbling over the words and notes. The confidence level sank, right along with the pitch.

Many members stood there with no music in their hands, no pencil to mark their music, and, I guess, pretended to perform as though they were "off paper" and "performance ready."

If you were in attendance you know I concluded our evening by reminding everyone that we only have 12 full rehearsals, and five shortened rehearsals (due to Christmas music) left before our show in March. It would have been acceptable if this were May or June and we just started, but this is almost November! We've had the music and learning tracks for five months but looked/sounded more like five days. I think the idea for going to contest in April will be in jeopardy unless things improve in the coming weeks.

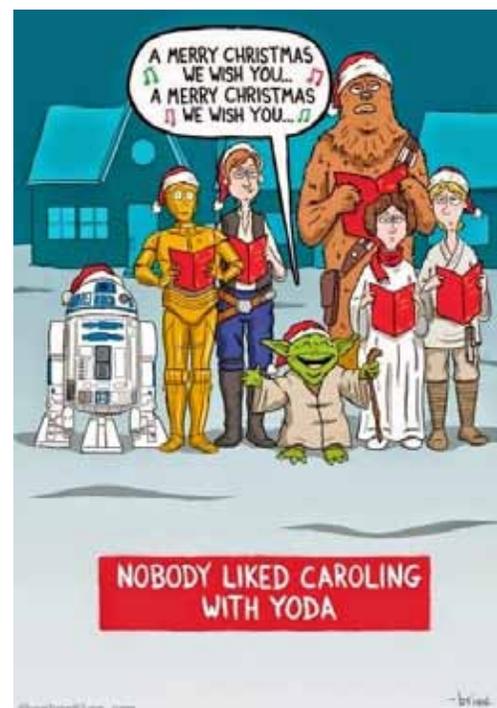
So, where do we go from here? I know for sure that we are better singers than what we heard this past Monday night. We all know those moments from past performances that make the hair stand right up and gives us goose bumps. But what does it take to make that kind of reaction happen more frequently?

We must spend time with the learning tracks, at home or on the road. We must practice by singing in front of a mirror to check our mouth and how we shape our vowels and our facial expressions. It's really not fair to Trevor when we are not prepared. We end up wasting his time, and ours! We can be better than this. In fact, **We Can, We Will, We Must!**

Below is a checklist we should all refer to on a weekly basis to hold ourselves accountable to our directors, our sections leaders, our section, and the chorus as a whole. While I support the idea that Monday nights need to be fun and an enjoyable experience, we also need to understand the commitment required as a member. Fun comes from making great music together, but this happens when every member arrives prepared, having put time in prior to the rehearsal. We are a great chapter, with great leadership and great members... why would we settle for anything less?

Member Checklist:

- Do I have all my sheet music in an organized manner?
- Do I have all my learning tracks downloaded and available and do I use them?
- Do I check my e-mail regularly for messages from the President, Music VP, or Director?
- Am I logging into the Member Only website weekly to view the Dashboard filled with Chapter news, recording my attendance at upcoming events, marking my music learning status?
- Am I spending time at home working on the chorus music, working on the areas that need attention?
- If I am struggling with a particular section of a song, am I asking my section leader or director for assistance? We can never be scared or embarrassed to ask for help.
- Am I letting my section leader and/or directors know if I am going to be absent at upcoming meetings or events?
- Simply put...am I personally doing my part to support the chorus.



THE JOY OF QUARTETTING



Al Kelts
2016 President

In a previous "Joy," I discussed Al Pitts' first barbershop quartet at Ellsworth Air Force Base, before he became the father of the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus**. Remembering the interrelationship between the SOD Chorus and the US Military, I decided upon a new adventure, i.e., the Rapid City Veterans Day Parade. While we waited for the parade to start, several families assembled. At precisely



11:11 on November 11, the flags appeared as the parade started.

Several groups provided musical accompaniment to the parade:



The Cavalry Band



The Shrine Clown calliope truck



The Central High School Marching Band



The Stevens High School Marching Band

Finally, Pitts arrived in the Honor Flight Bus—look very closely.



So many families lined the street to honor our Veterans I found myself celebrating my uncles, Don and Elwyn, and my aunt, Audrey, who served in World War II, and also several of our SOD Chorus men who served in the Armed Forces over the years. I also felt very special pride in my son, Gregory, who, after West Point, served our country in Iraq.



THANK YOU ALL---WE OWE SO MUCH TO YOU!!

Al



WHY WE NEED A NEW AND YOUNGER MEMBERSHIP V. P!

By John Taylor

From **Canyon Chords**, Bill Sutton, Editor

I was reminded by a fellow BCBC member at Don Barnett's (Barney's) funeral last month, that we need to think ahead. "I'm afraid we're going to have a lot more of these," my fellow singer said, as we were seated at the service. At first I wasn't sure what he meant. And, then I followed his glance down the two rows of mostly white haired and balding gentlemen and realized that we're not yet building a strong replacement and back up team for the elderly core of BCBC. Soon enough we'll be out of "the old guys" to sing "the old songs" and show up for "events" and perhaps sing for our own funerals.

The Barbershop Harmony Society realizes this. Their focus in the past several years has been on recruiting new young members and adjusting our song repertoire to fit younger tastes. The message is clear. We can't just keep singing songs from the 20s, 30s and 40s and stay relevant! Good Golly, Miss Molly... we think **Beatles** songs from the 60s are NEW! They're over 50 years old!

We need some new blood. And we need to shift our focus to "**the New Barbershop**" if we are to survive. Let's push to get and keep the young guys involved. They are our future! They are the ones who will sing at our own funerals.

Editor's Note – This is not aimed at any of our officers. Don't worry, Dan, about being ousted! It is only re-published here to point out the need for our chapter, and most chapters, to be thinking of the younger people to take over our great hobby. It takes a new way of thinking. No longer does "We want new members--just like us" work. We need to think like the young people we want to attract to become the ones who perpetuate our great musical form.



Craft Corner

Adapted from the **Chordsman Chronicle**
R.F. Miller, Editor

The first issue that a new barbershop singer must face is to determine the voice part for which he's best suited. This chart shows the ideal vocal range for each of the four parts of barbershop a cappella singing.

Scale	Bass	Bari	Lead	Tenor
D				Advanced
Db/C#				Advanced
C				Normal
B				Normal
Bb/A#				Normal
A			Normal	Advanced
Ab/G#			Normal	Advanced
G		Normal	Advanced	Advanced
Gb/F#		Normal	Advanced	Advanced
F		Normal	Advanced	Advanced
E	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Eb/D#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
D	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Db/C#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
(Middle) C	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
B	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Bb/A#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
A	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Ab/G#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
G	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Gb/F#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
F	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
E	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Eb/D#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
D	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Db/C#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
C	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
B	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Bb/A#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
A	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Ab/G#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
G	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Gb/F#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
F	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
E	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Eb/D#	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
D	Normal	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced

	Normal Ranges
	ADvanced Repertoire

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHEAP



John Elving
Editor-in-Cheap

As we are trying to get a head start on our spring show, and as we are in the midst of our Christmas performances, it seems appropriate to hear what words of wisdom our friend Donny Rose has for us. In a note for all who will be singing in the **All Chapter Chorus** in San Antonio, here are some gems which should help every chorus, including ours.

“Show up to San Antonio (chapter meeting) knowing all music, off paper (after three or four weeks), at a section leader level. Be a little nervous and over prepared to sing with your riser brothers. We have all endured lovely people who stand near us and sing wrong notes and words, and this removes our joy. Don’t be that guy. Learn it and join us.

“Know and use the interpretation/breath plan/notes as given by the director, so we can rehearse at a much higher level.

“The level of difficulty is medium for most of our songs. That doesn’t mean that learning takes place in the chorus rehearsal time. You still have to prepare outside of our rehearsal for hours. Prepare because you care about the rest of us. Take pride.

“Riser culture

- Non-disruptive laughter, brotherhood, atta boys and joy on the risers should be our norm
- Talking by leaders out front with active listening by the chorus members
- No “helping” of other members (raising your shoulder, pointing to sing higher or low, shushing....)
- Do not hold music when you should be off spots
- Listen harder than you sing: become part of the sound, don’t be a hero and save the chorus
- Only ask questions when invited to do so... we should not need to take random questions... it will derail us.
- You are not required to sing every note. For the parts that are out of your range, it’s alright to lip sync.”

These are all great suggestions and should be a definite part of each and every rehearsal all year long. With just these few suggestions, we could be so much more.

Over the past weeks/months/years, many of these have been mentioned by the directors. The lack of these cause frustration, not just limited to the directors. It is shared by

several members, present and past, and really affects our relationship with new members, especially the young.

When a concept is taught and we do it, we can say, “That’s one in a row,” and also think, “Why can’t we do that every time?” Our learning curve is not fast enough. Clayton mentioned that with the new music coming up for the show, we need to learn much faster. As a matter of fact, he stated that with the great learning tracks we purchase, we should be off the spots in about three weeks. (How many really heard that?) Our rehearsal times should never be used to teach parts, only to make corrections (once or twice at the most) and then work on musicianship and artistry.

If we’re honest, there are some who don’t know the notes and words 100% after singing some songs for many years. This is something that Donny Rose has mentioned in working with us more than once. We can do better than that, but it takes work on our part other than Thursday evenings. Just those two things, notes and words, should be non-negotiables.

It would take more space than one page to elaborate the times directors have had to repeat the same message time and again—things like correct posture, breathing, vowel targets, proper turning of diphthongs, connecting all words, “singlish,” smooth phrases, unit sound, dynamics, correct notes and words—and of course, working on these things on our own between Thursday night rehearsals. Thursday nights should be used for polishing, not learning (worth repeating). The list could go on and on.

The point of it all is that we as chorus and chapter members need to step up to the plate and do what is expected of us. That includes all of the above plus....

Are we all exhibiting good posture, whether standing on the risers, in front of our chairs or sitting in the chairs? Are we actively practicing all the characteristics of a good singer, or do we mail in our part, or even possibly just rare back and let ‘er rip?

Hard work you say? You bet it is! Clayton does his part every week. It’s obvious that he’s prepared. Are we? Have you ever heard a director say, “That’s your homework for next week?” So do we do our homework? Here comes more hard work.

We owe it to our front line director and the assistant directors to do our part on Thursday nights and be prepared by working on the Fridays through Wednesdays. If we use Thursday nights to both learn, practice and polish, it’s a little bit of wasted time.

There are so many things that we need to do as singers. It is work. However, remember that people will see and hear the improvement when it is evident that we have worked hard.

John



Are you giving your best

Author Unknown

Seen in **The Chordsmen Chronicle**

R.F. Miller, Editor

As you read this article, one thing is clear, there is no mention of singing in any form. But you should read between the lines to see how this individual's thought process can be applied to your participation in the chorus.

In the classic western movie "**High Noon**," Gary Cooper played the role of Kane, a lawman who had brought peace and order to his town. After years of service, he decided to get married, take off his badge, and leave town.

Minutes after his wedding ceremony, he received word that a gunman whom he had arrested years earlier had been let out of prison and would be arriving in town in less than two hours. His cronies were waiting at the train station to join forces and walk down Main Street to kill "Kane."

Kane decided to stay and fight, even after the other men of the town refused to join him. He put his badge back on and faced the gunmen alone. He had given the townspeople his best for many years, and now, in his time of need, they left him to be gunned down... alone.



It is hard to judge what will happen when you give your best. You will probably be supported and appreciated. But giving your best may also result in a backlash of jealousy and rivalry.

You may be accused of selfish ulterior motives; you may win false friends and true enemies; you may be shot down by small men and women with small minds; you may witness the destruction of what you spent years building; you may be attacked by those you are helping; you may be left to fight the good fight alone.

Think about it. What kind of person doesn't give his or her best? Why would anyone want to deliver a second-rate performance?

Certainly tact, strategy, and timing are important. You can look for the right opportunities, or create the right opportunities, to give your best. But even as you work to improve your skills so that you can do better in the future, there is always something that you can

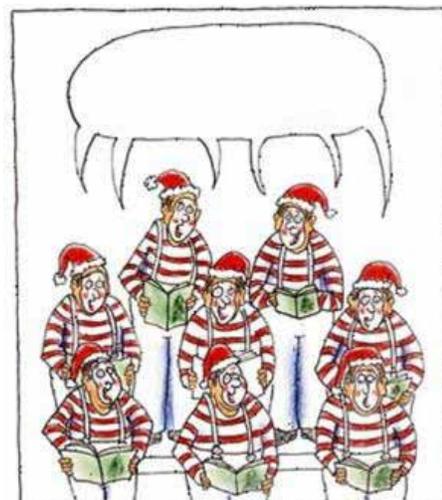
be doing that represents your best right now.

Giving your best is not something you do later, it's something you do every day. You are already unique. You already have something to offer.

The cost of giving your best can be high. The only thing that costs more is not giving your best. If you aren't giving your best, you aren't who you are supposed to be.

Never forget that you are unique. You are genetically unique, and you are unique in your combination of talent and experience. That means you have something special to contribute... you make that contribution by giving the world your best.

If you're not giving the world your best, what world are you saving it for? 🎵



The Mime and Tabernacle Choir Singing "Silent Night".

Tas of the Month

Merry Christmas and Goodnight

Arr. Greg Blackwell

Mer-ry Christ - mas and good - night. _____

night. _____

Merry Christ-mas to all and to all a good - night. Mer-ry Christ - mas and good - night. _____



MEMBER'S RESOURCE CENTER

Keep for reference – click on active links below

BHS Website – www.barbershop.org
 Rocky Mountain District website – www.rmidsing.org
 BHS Phone Number – 1-800-876-SING (6474) – toll free
 Renew you membership – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 Quartet registration – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 Find a member, chapter, quartet – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 SOD Chorus Manager – pete@pete-ins.com, 605-209-3701 (Cell)
 SOD Chorus VP Music – sdprice@rap.midco.net
 SOD Chorus President – dockelts@aol.com
 SOD Chorus VP Membership – dan@horsleyrefinishing.com
 Voice of Rushmore editor – leaderman@midco.net
 605-381-9680 (Cell)
 Webmaster – kenweybright@shrineofdemocracychorus.org
 605-721-7650

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mount Rushmore Chapter and the Shrine of Democracy Chorus shall promote, encourage, and perpetuate the barbershop style of singing in both the chorus and quartets by bringing men together in harmony and fellowship, thereby enriching their lives through singing. We will continually use resources and opportunities available to us locally and through the Rocky Mountain District to improve our singing and performances.

