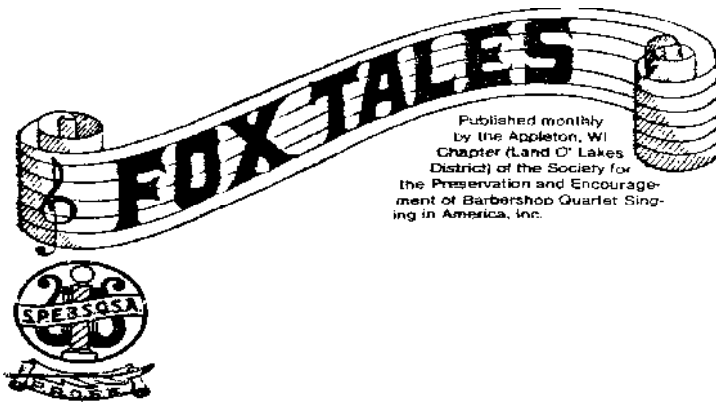


FOX VALLEYAIRES



Published monthly by the Appleton, WI Chapter (Land O' Lakes District) of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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NUMBER 02

Are you a Team Member?

Submitted by **Bill Kutscher**

The American College Dictionary defines TEAM as:

“a number of persons associated in some joint action. Those of us who have a LOVE affair with the Acappella style of singing Barbershop can sort of compare ourselves in some ways to a sports athletic team. Oh, I don't mean that you have to be over six foot tall and weigh over two hundred



plus pounds with bulging muscles and blazing speed to be able to sing. On the contrary! Let's take for example the recent football season. Of all the attributes possessed by these players, what important ingredient did they have that every organization needs in order to become successful? **TEAMWORK!** Of course you need many other strengths to become successful also, such as talent, hard work, disciple, dedication, etc. But the overall ingredient is **TEAMWORK.**

These players, as well as any of us, must learn to trust their teammates and rely on them for their

every move. This means they must be able to ignore the color of their skin; their different religions and the place were they grew up. This formula for success on the playing field is the same as the formula for success in life, or any other organization you choose to belong to.

Of course our singing skills are different in many ways from the athlete's skills. But we still need these characteristics to become better singers and fulfill our goals.

We may not be shooting for a championship, or any super bowl, but we still need to use talents to be as good as we can be.

Remember, you get back from your hobby as much as you put into it.



IT'S SHOWTIME!

Let us
Entertain
You!

Annual Show: May 7 at Xavier High School
Guest Quartets:

Expedition and The Allies

From the Top

Submitted by Dick Staedt

Whew! What a beginning to the month of February, Singing Valentines, coaching with James Estes, performance with the Appleton Boy Choir, and wrapping up Singing Valentines with mailing the pictures. Well it has all come off without a hitch. We wound up with 48 Singing Valentines delivered by four quartets. A big Thank You to Retrospect, FOG, Sing For Life and One Button Short. A JOB WELL DONE!



Overall valentine numbers were down again this year. It will be interesting to talk with other chapters to see if they experienced the same thing. The Fox Valleyaires are getting off to a great start for 2011. The music team is putting the final touches on our 67th annual show on May 7th, 2011 and beginning to select music for the 2012 show. Talking about show music, there will be a change in the Dinner show music for 2011 as it will be all Christmas music. That means learning some new Christmas music along with the 2012 show tunes.

Our performance with the Appleton Boy Choir Youth Festival went very well. The mass sing could have been planned out a little better by getting everyone on risers on stage rather than strung out through the auditorium. With the performances of After Hours and the Fox Valleyaires, we introduced a new audience to the barbershop style of music. Hopefully that will be rewarded by some additional ticket sales for our show and some students for the Harmony Explosion Camp in June.

The coaching session with James went extremely well and should make us well prepared for our show and return to the contest stage. The Packerland Division Contest will be in Green Bay on Saturday, May 21st. Please mark that date on your calendar as we want everybody on stage.

We are moving forward with the planning and implementation of "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings". The program provides the opportunity for everyone in the chapter to participate in coaching,

directing, and introductions, being the audience, watcher, and others. Each category will be explained and you will be coached before you get to partake in playing a roll. You will also be able to choose your roll. The program will promote personal growth and the end result will benefit the whole chorus and our audience, so take a chance and get involved. You may discover a new you. The end result will be "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings" and a fun experience at every meeting for you and prospective members.

It is my pleasure to welcome Gary Strike as the newest member of the Fox Valleyaires. Gary is Greg's dad and this will be Greg's first Gold Note. Congratulations to both.

I had the privilege to spend an hour with a Hortonville High School quartet that plans to perform "Hello Mary Lou" in the solo ensemble choral music evaluations this spring. It was a pleasant surprise to hear how well they sang and knew the words and music. I've asked Carl Schumacher to give them some more coaching before they perform. I'm sure they will give a good rendition and we wish them well. There may be some interest in them attending the LOL Harmony Explosion Camp also. Till the Next time.

Dick Staedt President

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APRIL

- 02 Kelly Vandehy
- 19 Tim Thiede
- 21 Bill Albrecht
- 22 Carol Mackin
- 23 Joan Scherer
- 25 Dawn Dorschner



MAY

- 01 Kim Vandehy
- 08 Kathleen Albrecht
- 18 Tom Vandenberg
- 20 Tom Schell
- 26 Albert Ag
- 27 Norb Braun



THE SONGS WE SING

Tiger Rag- More Popular than you realize

The Kazoo Koncerto- A New Tradition

Russ Simpson

Submitted by Russ Simpson



How do traditions begin? Well of course, there has to be a first. Then another, then another, and finally, folks just say: “that’s how we do it here!” In A cappella music, particularly barbershop music, we are used to singing songs with rich tradition, usually

music that can stretch back a generation or two. So what happens to our concept of tradition when we perform a relatively new song like the Kazoo Koncerto??

Mary Donnelly Haskell wrote the words and music to the *Kazoo Koncerto*, and of course, a lady never tells her age, but her current photos place her age younger than about 75% of the members of the Fox Valleyaires. What’s her story? She is an actress (TV shows: Sisters, 7th Heaven, Touched by an Angel), and also a musician, song writer, performer. She specializes in Christian Gospel, and Christmas music, and some children’s songs, and of course Kazoo music.

She has southern roots; born in Beaumont, Texas, educated in music at the University of Mississippi, and now lives in Los Angeles. Some of her music has been picked by the Barbershop style and has been arranged Barbershop style by Tom Gentry, a name that appears on lots of scores for sale through our society.

So, any tradition that exists is probably the Kazoo instrument itself. What’s the deal? Kazoos were used in Africa to disguise human voices along with traditional masks for stories, plays and skits. Kazoos traveled first to Europe, then on to America, particularly Georgia. In 1852, they were offered for sale at the Georgia State Fair and became popular throughout the south. In 1923, they had made it up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where they were redesigned and patented by the Kazoo Company, and as they say, the rest is history.

The real test of a good song is: is it fun to sing? and is it entertaining for the audience?. And of course the answer is Yes, and Yes. So we are starting a new barbershop tradition, by singing new or current music. Can’t wait!!

Living here in Wisconsin, often we don’t know much about traditions of the south. If you are a college football or basketball fan, you may know that LSU, Auburn, Clemson, Memphis, and U. of Missouri fans sit in the stands and sing this song along with their marching/performing bands. If you follow MLB baseball, you might be singing this song instead of “*Take me out to the Ballgame*” for the seventh inning stretch at a Detroit Tiger game.

If you like the big band sound of Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, and the singing of Frank Sinatra and the Mills Brothers, you would enjoy this frequently performed and recorded song from each of them. “*Hello, Mary Lou*”, was made famous by the son, Ricky Nelson, but his dad, Ozzie Nelson played the *Tiger Rag* song with his band for years, before the TV show.

Tiger Rag was first recorded in New Orleans in 1917 (near the end of WWI), and was said to be a local song, from the Jazz roots of the city. It was not immediately accepted as a popular song, but it was rerecorded, over and over, by hundreds of groups and became one of the staples of jazz from the south. The Mills Brothers sold the most records of this song.

Everyone who knows guitars wants to own a “Les Paul” guitar, (inventor of the electric guitar). Les Paul is actually from Milwaukee, although he lived in NYC for most of his life. He also made a famous recording of *Tiger Rag* featuring his “new electric guitar”.

The Tiger Rag song has appeared in the music scores of at least 37 Hollywood movies, including most recently as an “Acappella song” from the opening scene in *Leatherheads (2008)*.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it will be performed as a featured song, by the Fox Valleyaires, on May 7, 2011 at the annual show “*Technical Difficulties*” held at Appleton Xavier High School.

Happy listening (and toe tapping)!!

Support the future of the Harmony Society by becoming an Ambassador of song. As little as \$10 per month



MARCH-APRIL 2011

2011 Fox Valleyaires Chapter Leaders
www.foxvalleyaires.com

Fox Valleyaires Chorus meets on Tuesdays, at 7:00 PM at Little Chute Village Hall – 101 Main St.

- Little Chute, WI 54140 725-1485
- President Dick Staedt 734-9495
- Past President: Jack Marcoe 727-0110
- Secretary: John Scherer 739-6687
- Treasurer: Tom Vandenberg 788-3137
- Program: Gerry Dunning 731-4203
- Membership VP: Ken Felton 734-8597
- Public Relation VP: John Micke 336-2590
- Members at large
- Mark Vandenberg 788-6893
- Paul Holzschuh 725-7965
- Albert Eg 687-9107
- Scott Finley 996-0936
- YIH Chair: Richard Staedt 734-9495
- Music Director: Bill and Kathleen Albrecht 231-4645
- Chorus Manager: Bob Starner 757-6153
- Uniforms: Bob Pautz 766-0455
- Valentine Chair: Dick Staedt 734-9495
- Octoberfest Chair: John Scherer 739-6687
- Music Librarian: Clary Reinhardt 915-2355
- Sunshine Comm: Bill Kutscher 725-3855

2010 BOTY: Jack Marcoe
2010 Dan Waselchuk Award: Ken Felton

- Show Chair: Ken Bester 954-8369
- House Comm: Albert Eg 687-9107
- Historian: Will Mackin 733-0593
- Bulletin Editor: Clary Reinhardt 725-1485
- Music Committee: Bill Albrecht, Bill Kutscher, Bill Hortsch, Carl Schumacher, Les Hannemann, Will Mackin, Scott Finley, Gerry Dunning and Clary Reinhardt.

We get Mail

Our Valentines performances may not have been a total success for our chapter coffer, but it was a huge success for our Valentines recipients.

*Dear Dick,
 Thanks again for helping make our daughter's Valentines Day special especially being away from home. The telephone Valentine was great! Thanks to One Button Short for an awesome job.*

John

*Dear Fox Valleyaires,
 Thank you so much! You guys did a great job. My fiancée loved it and it truly made her day.*

Thank you for the beautiful singing Valentine, it brightened up my day also. I received the picture and it turned out really nice. This will be a lovely reminder of my husband's thoughtfulness and love delivered by the quartet on our 30th wedding anniversary and Valentine's Day

Sandy Cloutier

Thanks you for making Deb's day wonderful. She loved and started crying. I will pass your number along to friends and family. Great Job!

Robert

Appleton Chapter

Vision Statement

* To be recognized as the most exciting and entertaining musical group in the Fox Valley.

Mission Statement

* The mission of the Fox Valleyaires Men's Barbershop Chorus is to enrich lives by prompting the barbershop style of music in our schools and the community, sharing the barbershop experience with other men, and offering singers the opportunity to improve their musical skills.

News from around the District

Surprise visit thrills audience at Youth in Harmony Festival performance.



Willmar High School music department was the site of the third annual Youth in Harmony Festival. Students from seven area high schools participated in Acappella singing in the barbershop style. The **West Central Connection Chorus** and **Sound Image Quartet** hosted the event, with financial assistance provided by several Willmar businesses and the Willmar Arts Council. In a surprise to the participants, the **2011 International Champion Collegiate Quartet, Swedish Match** arrived in the afternoon, participating as teaching quartet and later as headline quartet for the Festival Chorus evening show.

Seventy students from area high schools including Paynesville, Battle Lake, Eden Valley/Watkins, St. Cloud Tech, Willmar, Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City and Renville County West attended. The chorus was led by **Peter Benson**, Director of the Great Northern Union Chorus of Hilltop Minnesota. Students were provided sheet music, and a listening/learning CD of the music several weeks in advance. Music educators from these schools provided students extra time and direction prior to the festival. The afternoon was filled with practice and musical exercises and then a teaching display of barbershop music provided by **Swedish Match**.

A free evening concert for family and friends of the students was also open to the public. Festival Chorus sang **Sound Celebration, Shenandoah, and Driving Me Crazy**. A quartet from Battle Lake High School was expected to perform; however, the tenor was unable to attend. The tenor from Swedish Match volunteered to fill-in and the quartet sang with the champion. The West Central Connection Chorus, Sound Image Quartet each sang three songs followed by Swedish Match completing the show. Students and parents gave the champions a standing ovation lasting until they agreed to sing an encore.

"This is such an important event because it gets young men excited about singing as a life-long hobby. They get a chance to harmonize with other kids their own age as well as adults who are still having the time of their lives. It was impressive that these kids were willing to give up a whole Saturday for the event. They had great attitudes and work ethic all day long, which is a testament to their high school choir directors." **Peter Benson**, Festival Chorus Director.

Performance

Submitted by **Dick Staedt**

TV vs Radio.

In the days before TV or Videos we listened to the radio receiving sound only. It caused us to create the visual portions of the story or song in our minds. Whether it was the **Lone Ranger, Fiber MaGee and Molly or a Joe Louis fight**, our minds eye gave us a visual story about what we were listening to. Along came TV and we no longer had to visualize the story line, it was portrayed right there on the screen for us to see and follow along.

Singing vs Performing.

When we present our music for the public we become more than singers, we become performers. As performers, we add the visual to the musical story line. If all we do is sing, we leave it up to the audience to visualize the story line. If we perform the music, we take the audience along with us on the journey as we tell the story. The point is, we as performers have to be animated in our presentation in order to take the audience with us on the journey through each song we present. If we can take the audience to a place they have been with our presentation, we have done our job. Be it a ball game, romantic interlude, a great polka party or a moment of patriotism, our presentation of a song has the power to do that.

When you rehearse, NOT PRACTICE, your music do you stand up and let the music move you? Do you feel the soft? The swells? The rhythms? Let your mind and body react to those feelings and you will find yourself painting a visual picture of the story line of the song. We are all animated when we talk. We should be just as animated when we sing, which will enhance the story line, and take our audience on the journey with us.

Try it! You'll like the results!

Past Presidential Ponderings



Last night while relaxing on my couch I looked over at the mantle of my fireplace where the traveling **B.O.T.Y.** trophy is proudly displayed. As I looked at the trophy, I realized that I had not yet written a public thank you or description of my thoughts and feeling regarding this award. So...here we go.

It is difficult for me to comprehend the honor that (through the selection committee) was given to me. When I look at the names of the other recipients, I see that

I am in elite company. The fact that many of the men included in this group have invested decades of their lives promoting the **Fox Valleyaires** and the Barbershop style and tradition is humbling. When I accepted the award back in January, I was speechless...those of you who know me, know that I am rarely speechless. I still am speechless. All I have to say is a simple and heart felt...Thank You.

The first three months of 2011 are almost over...they have flown by at lightning speed because of all the activities that have taken place. **The Leadership Academy (COTS for us old-timers)**, preparation for the show, competition, and the **Appleton Music Festival**, participating in a coaching session, and for many of us Singing Valentines has made the past quarter a blur. With all that has transpired (I have to use multi-syllabic words occasionally) gentlemen we appear to be learning, improving, and having FUN. That is not happening by accident. It is a result the efforts of our directors, the music team, the board, and most of all your hard work.

The next quarter will likely be moving just as quickly. With final prep for the show and the show itself, we will have our hands and voices full. Just when things seem to slow a little, we will be finishing our preparation for the spring contest and of course competing. To continue the positive results of the first quarter we will all have to share our skills, talent, and time to making the **Fox Valleyaires** the best musical ensemble in the valley.

Until the spirit moves me to ponder and expound upon my ponderings,

I ask you all to

BE FANTASTIC. Jack

6 Months as a Fox Valleyaire: "The Tale of Chris Vander Pas"



It has been almost 6 months now being a new member of the **Fox Valleyaires** and I have yet to write an article on this journey. First off, for those who didn't know or remember I came in late July for the guest night. I was surprised that the group was so confused by me coming in without anyone's influence

During that first night I met a whole bunch of people, including some rotten baritones, (just kidding guys. Don't kill me please!). Everyone was really nice and I was really excited that I did visit. Soon after that day, things not only changed for me, but for the entire group because the director left and **Bill and Kathleen** came into power.

I was very confused at first with how this all of a sudden happened, but I was optimistic about the change. About a month later, I decided I wanted to be a member which was definitely the best idea I'll never regret doing. After that moment things kept getting better and better for me and the group.

One of these better times had to be a few months later, when I got to have my first concert as a **Fox Valleyaire**. This concert was not only a great showing of how we were getting better, but also being able to meet an international champion in person and to sing with them. This will definitely be a memory I could never forget. Another memory I can never forget was the first time I had the opportunity to use what I'm learning in my music studies. That had to be the biggest nerve racking experience I've had in all my life, but it definitely made me learn and grow from it.

The last memory during these 6 months was getting the opportunity to meet **James Estes** and get a lot of advice from him. That was a great honor to me as I started out singing barbershop by singing his tags from YouTube. I honestly can't wait to have more great memories with them. Overall during these 6 months, we as a group have really grown and it shows. It's nice to see how much dedication the members have to all the changes that happened while I was there. I feel I've also grown as an individual, singer, and even a future educator.

As I decide to take more responsibilities in the group I will definitely grow from these experiences. At one point I hope I can really make an impact to not only this group, but to many other people. So, if I don't say it at some point, thank you so much everyone at the **Fox Valleyaires**, you really make Tuesdays great.

FLASHBACK

Taken from the Kau-Chute Notes April, 1963 issue. Jack Hermsen, Editor.



I'd like to repeat here three short paragraphs from an article entitled "*The Craftsman*", which was printed in the Dixie District Bulletin. The article has to do with Stage Presence and selling a song –

For our audience to capture the true feeling of a song, we must first capture this feeling ourselves and inject it into every phase. Every phase should be sung with sincerity and should include a climax, even though it may be minute.

Did you ever try to say a sentence without an inflection or emotion in your voice? Try it, and you will see what I mean. Too often, this is the way we sing. And we have no right to expect an audience to buy a song if we don't know and express the meaning ourselves.

Every time you sing, you are telling a story and selling a song. Think of the meaning of the song as the product you are selling and make your listeners live every thought with you.

If each of us would bear these thoughts in mind when we're singing, it would be much easier for us and for Mike, too. These articles are written by experts in our field and with your indulgence I'd like to include something like this in each bulletin. It can only help us.

While we're on the subject of "selling a song" - surely all of us have at one time or another seen people like *The McGuire Sisters, Judy Garland or Jimmy Durante* perform on TV. Now we may not agree with their diction, expression, etc., but one thing they do and do well is sell a song. We could learn from these entertainers.

Foxtales Editors note) this article is very timely and it goes along with what President Dick wrote in his column.

Footnote: Wouldn't it be exciting if we could actually do this on our May, 7 show!

Hello Barbershoppers!

Submitted by **Greg Strike**



In only a couple of months it'll be a year since I've joined. Before we dive in I'd like to take a moment and thank each one of you for an amazing time so far. The first night I came I remember that I was pretty nervous, didn't know anyone and didn't know

what to expect. But, the thing I remember most was how kind and welcoming each one of you were! I truly felt welcomed and it made it very easy for me to want to come back the next week. So, thank you and let's keep that atmosphere alive in the hopes that it will draw more people in!

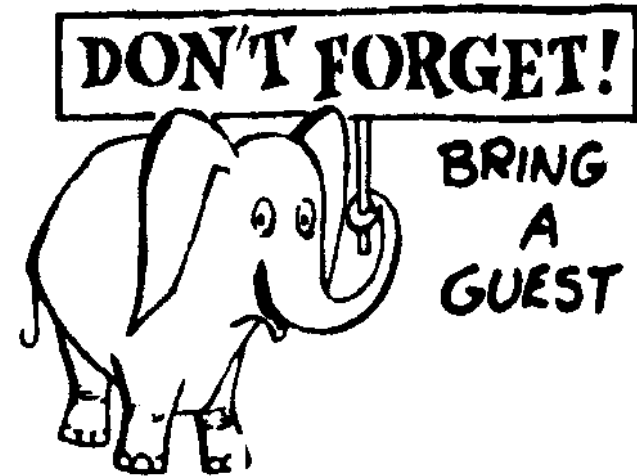
I like to consider myself a fairly well balanced individual. I have a wife, a child on the way, work full-time in I.T., and I have plenty of hobbies. If all of this doesn't keep me busy enough, I make sure to write about it on one of my websites, www.GregoryStrike.com. As busy as I am I still find the time enjoy one of my most rewarding hobbies, Barbershopping.

The first opportunity to sing barbershop I had was in my junior year at *Neenah High School*. One of the choir directors at the time, **Todd Oxley**, recommended I form a quartet with three other guys in my class. So that's what we did and we called ourselves, **The Stalls** (the name can be accredited to our favorite location to practice). After some practice we went on to perform at an event called **Solo & Ensemble**. If you did well there you could move on and compete at the State-wide level. We were fortunate enough to get the highest rating at both levels! We had a great time together but then high school ended and we no longer sang together.

Around the same time I became a very active part of the music ministry at my church. I learned a lot in those 10 years, but I felt I needed to move on. Though I'm still involved there, it is no longer on a weekly basis. This left me with little to no musical outlet.

Continued on page 8

APPLETON CHAPTER
137 STATE STREET
NEENAH, WI, 54956



Continued from page 7

In Marc of 2010, **Jessica**, my beautiful and very thoughtful wife, bought me a very creative birthday present, a ticket to the *Fox Valleyaires* Spring show at Xavier! I knew there was a barbershop group around but I hadn't taken the time to look into it. She knew this and bought tickets for both of us. We had a great time and you guys had an excellent show!

The spring show last year was the catalyst I needed to look into the *Fox Valleyaires*. I'm glad I did! It's been an amazing time so far and I feel I've learned a lot since **Bill and Kathleen** took over. I'm looking forward to the years to come and I feel we are getting better every week. I can't wait to see what we can do together!

Raffle



It is time again for our annual **Big Raffle**. This fundraiser is being organized by **John Scherer and John Ver-Bockel**. The

monies raised will go to benefit the **Youth in Harmony Program**. Members are asked to donate items they no longer need or don't want. Some time after the show we will ask the members to start bringing them to the meetings. Raffle tickets will be 6/\$5.00 or 12/\$10.00 or 18/\$15.00.

You are encouraged to sell tickets to your friends and family. Winners do not have to be present to win.