The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

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Marcellus Says They're Working

Febuary 11, 2013

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Calendar

Valentines Day Fund Drive, Thursday, February 14

Valentines Party, February 16th. 6:00 PM, St. Alban's Episcopal Church. See note from Gary below.

Spring Contest, March 8-9, Gadsden, AL

Summer Cookout, June 29

Annual Show, August 17, GPS, Lunch Break is guest quartet.

Fall Contest, October 4-5, Chattanooga, we are host.

Christmas Show

Christmas Party, December 15 (tentative)

Singing Valentine Order Form Attached

It's not too early to start selling Singing Valentines. The new order form is attached to this newsletter.

Valentine Party

The Valentine Party this year will be hosted by Gary and Marilyn Fisher on Saturday, February 16th at 6:00 pm. Tickets are $15 each and I need a full count and the money by Monday night's rehearsal. The party will include song, food and the Barbershop of the Year Award. Only Fred knows who that is so make sure you come...could be YOU!

Directions to St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Hixson: 1. Take Highway 153 North just past Northgate Mall to the up ramp of Hixson Pike (Rd 319). 2. Travel 5.3 miles on Hixson Pike towards Chester Frost Park. 3. Just past the turn off to Chester Frost, behind the abandoned gas station, turn into the driveway of St. Alban's Church. The address is 7514 Hixson Pike.

Comment on Last Week's BTOW

Fred says: "Are you familiar with the Pythagorean comma? It is the discrepancy between the first and last pitch in the circle of fifths, making the final pitch about an eighth of a tone sharp. Thus every pitch in the circle is flatted slightly so that it comes out correctly resulting in the equally tempered scale. The BBS publication "The Physics of Barbershop Sound" is very interesting if you want to go deeper into the way barbershop sounds. It also includes "Why Some Guys Sing Flat" and the explanation. Chuck Wilson noted this flatting once in a warmup by doing the tag."

Online Archive

Script for Monday Meeting

7:00 Chuck leads warm up plus Polecat
7:15 Chuck - I Love You Truly - Prep for Val Day
7:30 Paul - Wait Till The Sunshines, Nelly
7:45 Paul - Armed Forces Medley
8:10 Paul - Sweet and Lovely
8:20 Announcements & break
8:30 Four on the Floor - Wally, Tom, Beau and Erby
8:40 Risers - How's Every Little Thing in Dixie
9:00 Paul - When Someone Loves Me
9:23 Paul - Craft
9:28 Gandy and KTWWS

Highlights of Last Meeting

Twenty-nine attended last Monday's meeting, though there were only 11 at 7 PM. We spent extra time on *Heart of My Heart.*

Bill lead announcments. Wilbur noted the Dixie Conference Registration is online and he also passed out those forms ($39 advanced - $49 after Feb 22). Gary purchased recycle containers for paper and plastic - so use them. He provided the details for the Valentines Party (see left column.) Fred passed a 3 year renewal to Wendell. Cameron introduced our 4 guests, Jesse, Doug, Andrew and Nathanial and we sang them a welcome. Marcellus gave an update on SV (see below). New prices are $45 for four hour window), $55 (two hour) and $70 (one hour).

The Four Blades, that is Rich, Chet, DaveF and Brandon sang *Down Our Way*.Gene passed the Gandy to Beau. We closed with KTWWS.

Singing Valentines Update

My only message is: Thanks for all those who have already begun to pound the bushes for Valentines. I have feeling that the enthusiasm I have felt in prior years does not seem to be present. Don't know if a lot of folks are suffering burnout or what. What I do know is that with Valantines Day just 9 days away, we need to generate some real energy. Looks like we'll have three quartets working the orders. I'm asking all members to do what they can to help make this year's campaign a success. If each member sold at least one Valentine, that would put us about 1/2 way there. Getting signs out is also critical. We are fortunate that the election co-incides with this year's campaign so we can plant them right alongside those campaign posters . Let's get those signs out wherever we can, especially at busy intersections. Pass cards out. I noticed few people took the small business sized cards to hand out. Nothing will happen unless we get in there and roll our sleeves up! Special thanks for those who are already hard at work on behalf of this important effort. Thank You for all your hard work! *Marcellus*

Barbershop Term of the Week (BTOW)

This week's term is key signature. How do we choose which note to blow before a song? Does it really matter? The key signature is how we know where the tonal center of the piece is, the tonic, what Paul often calls “home” or “do” in the do-re-mi of solfège. You can see the key signature just to the left of the first notes of a song. It’s represented by a grouping of sharp or flat symbols, or sometimes no symbols at all. Here are some key signatures: No flats or sharps (C), one flat (F), two flats (Bb), three flats (Eb), four flats (Ab), one sharp (G), two sharps (D). These are the major keys most frequently used in our arrangements. Each key has a relative minor key, too, but that’s not something I’m going to get into this week. Each sharp or flat symbol falls on a line or space. Any time a note in the song falls on that line or space, the symbol from the key signature applies to that note. So E’s and B’s are automatically flat if the key signature has two flat symbols. This makes our music readable without having to see a billion little flat symbols all the time. Why would the arranger use any key other than C? I’m not an arranger, yet, but it appears to mostly relate to the range of the diffenent parts, especially the melody. For example, we try not to ask the basses to sing anything lower than the F below the bass clef. We try not to ask the leads to sing anything in chest voice above F#. We almost never ask the tenors to sing above the high C, and so on. My quartet frequently sings our songs up to a half step higher than they are written simply because it sounds better for our particular singers. You can sing a song up or down from where it is written so long as everyone agrees., like we did with How’s Every Little Thing in Dixie? last week (up 1.5 steps). So when someone blows the pitch, listen carefully for the high side of the note and think “There’s no place like home.” Chances are good that you’ll sing that note a lot for the next two minutes. Please send any corrections or comments to wally@epbfi.com and we can add it to next week’s column. *Wally*