



Official publication of the Grand Junction, Colorado chapter  
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT — BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

# the Bookcliff Bulletin

Grand Junction (S-014) chapter meets Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the Holy Family School,  
 786 26½ Road & H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

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www.Bookcliffchorus.net

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## The Word from the Prez

### Just a little “Splinter”

by Roger McClelland



During this last week-end, I enjoyed dinner with a couple of friends and their delightful child who is just over one year old. They are experienced and highly accomplished in theater arts and music. At the conclusion of the meal, I was pleasantly surprised when I read the message in my fortune cookie. My experience is that those terse words of wisdom usually fail to be remarkable but this one resonated with me. *“The essential conditions of everything you do must be choice, love and passion.”* I suspect most of us make choices based on a combination of reasons, some below our conscious awareness. Those participating in performing vocal music have discovered some basic ingredient that we chose to pursue. Maybe I tend to be more philosophical about the Barbershop Harmony experience than necessary, but regardless of how it fits with my life, it is a choice I made and continue to make, every day.

Production of enjoyable four part harmony requires multiple choices and singular agreement by at least four folks. You would probably grow weary reading before reaching the end of a list of factors that contribute to our collective enjoyment of singing together so I won't even attempt to generate an exhaustive list. Recently I asked our membership to fill out a questionnaire, and the lead question was *“The TOP THINGS I enjoy most about Barbershop are?”* The responses were varied but one way or the other, most indicated a love of singing which was no surprise. Another common idea was camaraderie. To sum it up concisely, most of the respondents indicated they really enjoy the experience. *“What we do is fun!”*

Please follow my line of thinking. This, Barbershop Harmony, is unique in a number of ways; most notable to me is that it tightly integrates a personal **choice**, **love** of singing and a **passion** for making harmony together. Individually,

we are fortunate to have the quality of musical leadership in our directors coupled with a general commitment to learning new songs and new skills. Regardless of the ebb and flow of other factors, the quiet, gentle spirit of encouragement within our organization is one I greatly appreciate. When you are not with us, I miss your smiling face; we miss your contribution to the richness of the collective sound. We are making memories for someone. This rehearsal may be the first one for a visitor or it may be the last one for another participant.

I am encouraged by what I read, what I see and what I hear. Participating with the Chorus every Tuesday evening is easily the most enjoyable part of my week. Last week Jim Witt arranged for the Chorus to sing *“Happy Birthday”* to my mother over the phone. Thank you, Jim for that unexpected treat. It brought her to tears, but it wasn't just the singing exactly; it prompted her to recall many times she shared with my father, an avid and talented musician. The music in your soul is probably the most valuable, irreplaceable gift you can give to others which enriches both them and you! The bottom line is this: singing may be one of the true timeless pleasures of life. I ask you to make it a priority to grow musically, to learn more and to share the experience as frequently as possible; then intentionally tell one or two others every week how much you appreciate their contribution. And don't keep it a secret from your non-member friends! It is too good not to share with others.

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# PARTICIPATION

*"You get out of it what you put into it."*

*By Olyn Carlson*

"You get out of it, what you put into it." It seems this expression has been around forever and is so true of the barbershop singing experience. From the guy who is tired of hearing himself in the shower and wants to get out of the house to get in some singing, to the active chorus member, to the international champ, society arranger, or the society Executive Director, the more you put into the "hobby", the more enjoyment you can receive. There is a point where you over commit, which we don't desire and you won't enjoy. Sharing the load is the key. We need everyone to participate to keep that experience from occurring. When every member participates there are plenty of volunteers to make things easier for all of us, but it takes everyone pitching in. So some guys drink, eat and sleep barbershop and some people barely know it exists and miss the opportunity to know the joys. The more time spent learning the intricacies of the barbershop style the greater the rewards and appreciation of the effort others have put into the "hobby" (in my case avocation, I've put quite a bit into it and spousal support is critical). Past Society President Roger Lewis' slogan reads, "Singing is life...the rest is just details."

Currently and traditionally, the Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus is and has been a group of men with diverse interests in the barbershop experience. The chorus has tried for years (ever since I've been a member) to balance all the needs of its members (see my August article in the Bookcliff Bulletin). To a large extent the chorus has been successful in balancing those interests.

In the past 5 years we have been successful in growing our numbers and improving the quality of the chorus sound. Our overall performance has improved. Our expectations have risen. The bar has been raised.

Currently, the Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus members are expected to make as many Tuesday night rehearsals as is physically possible. Nobody can make every meeting. We all know and accept that. Life gets in the way of our enjoyment of this "hobby". Why, you may ask is it so important that I be there? Who will miss me if I'm not there? There are plenty of guys attending now, the burden is lighter. It's just a rehearsal and I have other things I can be doing.

Let's see if I can bring the message home. Chorus singing is to a large extent about sound. Every voice makes a unique contribution to the overall sound produced. When a chorus is small, individual voices stand out, due to volume or quality. Ensembles need to blend voice. The larger a chorus the more individuality can be blended and unified. A unified sound is what we are about, therefore, the more singers the merrier. My experience has been that around 30 voices are needed to reduce the amount of individual projection and to create a more unified sound. Although, I realize just four voices can blend just fine. Blending the voices is a key element. A good director, like Raisha or Dave, can and will place voices so they blend better. So where you are located in the chorus can change from night to night. The different voices around you will alter your experience. When surrounded by the same voices the experience is more comfortable.

*Participation, (Contd. Pg. 3)*

- Sept. 8 Fall Membership Drive  
(Venue, Holy Family School) 6:30 P.M.  
1st Tues. (Dress: Blue Polo shirts)
- Sept. 15 Fall Membership Drive  
(Venue, Holy Family School) 6:30 P.M.
- Sept. 22 Gray Gourmet Appreciation  
(Venue: Sherwood Park  
Time: 4 pm.
- Sept. 22 Fall Membership Drive  
(Venue, Holy Family School) 6:30 P.M.
- Sept. 29 Fall Membership Drive  
(Venue, Holy Family School) 6:30 P.M.
- Sept. 25-27 RMD Fall Convention  
Cheyenne, WY
- Nov. 13-15 RMD Leadership Seminar  
(Venue TBD.)
- Dec. 4 Spirit of Christmas Walk
- Dec. 5 Performance  
Venue: Atrium 1PM.
- Dec. 6 Christmas Show  
(Venue: Baptist Church 7th & Grand)
- Dec. 16 School Performance  
(Venue: East Middle School 8th & Hill  
Time: 7 pm.
- Dec. 17 Retired Federal Employees  
(Venue: Two Rivers Convention Center)  
Time: 12:30 P.M.
- 2010
- Mar. 19-20 Coaching by John Coffin & Rod Sgrignoli  
Venue: Holy Family School

### Birthdays:

- Sept. 7 Will Hurley
- 13 Dean Fischer
- 17 David Hein
- 20 Virgil Christophersen
- Oct. 3 Scott Hendrickson
- 16 Allan Miles
- 26 Lloyd Unfred

### Anniversaries:

- Sept. 26 Lyman & Katy Wallace
- Oct. 3 Dean & Sylvia Fischer
- 11 Al & Pat Severson

# From The Directors Corner

## Rehearsal CD'S !!!!!

What a great invention! Using your rehearsal CD's is a great way to learn your music quickly. Sing with your CD in the car/truck, while doing other work, during commercials, and countless other times during your day. Check your music several times while singing with your CD so you can confirm the words and pattern of the song. If all of us use the CD's, we will be a better chorus in a shorter amount of time! Wouldn't that sound great? Happy song learning!



**Director,  
Raisha Quinn**

**Participation, (Contd.)**  
Having directed the chorus you can really tell the difference in the sound when someone is missing. The sound absolutely changes when members are absent. It is particularly, noticeable when certain prominent voices are gone. Balance and blend are affected. When just 3 or more voices (10% of the 30 man chorus) are gone, it varies the chorus sound dramatically. When there are not enough singers in one section to balance the chorus (i.e.: one tenor) balance is difficult. So every week and every performance the director adjusts to what they are hearing. Consistency is the hallmark of building a better chorus. Being able to anticipate what a particular chord will sound like, what the dynamic is in a particular portion of a song, and oh yah, that choreography move can happen at a totally different time when you move anywhere else, can build confidence or shake the confidence in your performance. When someone is missing, it just feels (sounds) different. When the guy you're used to leaning on for that pitch or that word isn't there it shakes the confidence level, and confidence is what good singing is all about.

When you miss a rehearsal you can miss an important learning opportunity. The directors are constantly teaching new techniques and working toward creating a more powerful musical experience for us and our audiences. Let's say someone misses a rehearsal and the chorus members at that rehearsal learn a new technique to improve some aspect of singing and the light bulb goes on, as they say, and next week that person returns and does not know the technique and alters the effectiveness of that new technique the outcome can be to actually turn off the bulb. On occasion when I have missed a rehearsal I'm lost for a while.

To get the most out of what is offered, we need to participate. Attending rehearsals is an important step, but just the tip of the iceberg. There are performances to be given. There are opportunities to involve the young people in our community in a wholesome activity. There is the physical benefit of singing. It is exercise, especially when done properly. There are educational opportunities at chapter, district and international levels. Opportunities exist to travel. There are competitions for those inclined to really get involved. There is quartet singing for the adventurous. Opportunities abound to lead the chorus to bigger and better things by becoming part of the leadership team. There are tags to be sung, goodies to be devoured (thanks Allan), and best of all relationships that can develop into life long friendships.

Yes, it is a commitment. We realize you are limited by family, vocational and personal commitments, which are often considerable. Financial status can be an issue for some, especially in this economic climate, but the Bookcliff Chorus does its best to not let finance be a factor. Despite all the reasons, any time spent singing is rewarding. "How can anyone be unhappy when singing?" As the expression goes, "If your to busy to sing, YOU'RE TO BUSY". So put something to your "hobby" and reap the rewards.

# DREORY THEORY GUESTONEORY

**(Noteworthy slivers?)**  
answers on page 4



**Assist. Director,  
David Hein**

- Counting from bottom to top, what are the letter names for the following:
  - Second line in treble clef \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fourth line in bass clef \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fourth space in treble clef \_\_\_\_\_
  - First line in bass clef \_\_\_\_\_
  - Space above the staff in treble clef \_\_\_\_\_
- True or False: A triad is built in thirds, thus having a root, third, and fifth.
- True or False: The interval of a sixth is considered perfect.
- True or False: The diatonic Major scale has half steps between 3-4 and 5-6.

# Music Education "Theory 101"

Classes held each Tues. 6:30 P.M. prior to Rehearsal

## Random Thoughts

I live in my own little world but it's OK, everyone knows me here.

## 2009 Chapter Officers

President	Roger McClelland	241-8816
Music & Performance VP	Bob Labig	216-7659
Marketing & PR VP	Loren Roth	434-1209
Program VP	Dennis Kiefer	243-8908
Youth in Harmony VP	Roger McClelland	241-8816
Chapter Development VP	Paul Didier	242-8643
Treasurer	Lloyd Unfred	314-7202
Secretary	Jack Cronkhite	245-1433
Member at large	Jim Witt	242-2657
Member at large		

## Music Directors

Director	Raisha Quinn.....	242-2831
Assistant Director	Dave Hein.....	242-7413

## Other Positions

Attendance	Paul Didier	242-8643
Learning CDs	Lloyd Unfred	314-7202
Music Librarian	Hal West	243-7958
Performance Coordinator	Lloyd Unfred	314-7202
Quartet Activity	Lloyd Unfred	314-7202
Refreshments	Allan Miles	858-0705
Show Chairman	Roger McClelland	241-8816
Uniform Manager	<b>Vacant</b>	
Valentine Chair	Lloyd Unfred	314-7202
Webmaster	Hal West	243-7958

## Section Leaders

Tenor Section	Ken Reish	263-4462
Lead Section	Olyn Carlson	434-5929
Baritone Section	Dave Hein	242-7413
Bass Section	Dennis Kiefer	243-8908

*Bookcliff Chorus* Meets at 7:00pm every Tuesday night at the Holy Family School, 786 26 1/2 Rd. Grand Junction, CO



## Chapter Quartets:

**Close Harmony:**  
(Registered)

Contact: Carroll Owen  
242-1212

**Grand Valley Four**  
(Registered)

Contact: Dave Hein  
242-7413

**Spare Parts Harmony**  
(Registered)

Contact: Ken Reish  
263-4462

**Four for One**

Contact: Dennis Kiefer  
243-8908

**Mixed Messages**

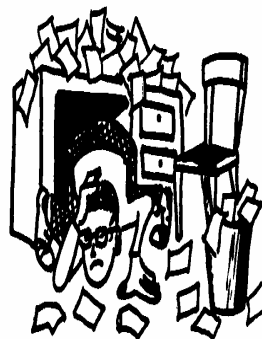
Contact: Lloyd Unfred  
314-7202

**My Father's Mustache**

Contact: Roger McClelland  
256-0619

**Answers !!!!**

1. a) g; b) f; c) e; d) g; e) g;
2. 1. True, 3. False, 4. False, 5. True



**Editor/Publisher**

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