



FOUNDERS CHORUS JULY 7, 2004 BY SAKARI HALL



The QuarterNote

Tulsa Founders Chorus



Gotcha!, Vocal Spectrum, AoH Tops At Louisville

Louisville, KY Nearly 9000 fans and friends of Barbershop Harmony convened at the 66th annual International Convention of the (now official) [Barbershop Harmony Society](#). They came from all parts of the globe to crown the best of the best; and what choices they made!!

Gotcha!, a quartet from the



Far Western District took the Gold and thrilled the crowd in the finals with, not something new and flashy, but good old fashioned Barber Polecat tunes, "Down By The Old Mill Stream" and "Wait 'Till The Sun Shines, Nellie".

The "super quartet" **MaxQ** from the SouthWestern District won silver. **Riptide**, **Metropolis**, and **Saturday Evening Post** (another SWD quartet) rounded out the top five medalist quartets. **Sterling**, another favorite from the SWD, moved up to 14th in just their second international, and Tulsa's **Cooligans** sang their best set in the quarterfinals coming in a VERY RESPECTABLE 36th.



The MBNA College Barbershop Quartet contest was a runaway by **Vocal Spectrum** a foursome from Lindenwood University in St.

Charles, MO. They bested second place **Four Score** by 105 points. Our SWD CBQC champions **nile manski trio** took the bronze and that ain't bad.



The Chorus contest was a thrilling squeaker with just 6 little percentage points between 5th and 1st places. After the dust settled, St. Charles' **Ambassadors of Harmony** hung the gold medals around the necks of their 160 chorus members. **The Northern Lights** (Toronto, ON), **New Tradition** (Northbrook, IL), **Alexandria Harmonizers** (Alexandria, VA), and **The Alliance** (Greater Central Ohio) rounded out the top five.

From The Contest Stage

Founders Chorus and Quartets Prepare for Dallas

Tulsa, OK The "Big Dance" for us here in the District of Champions is just around the corner. On October 22nd and 23rd the Dallas Metro Chapter (Vocal Majority) will host [Harmonizing on Performance Drive](#), the SWD Convention and Contest at the Eise-

mann Center in Richardson, TX. In Hot Springs last March the Founders Chorus qualified to compete and have been hard at work preparing to represent the Tulsa #1 chapter. Special coaching rehearsals and lots of barbershop craft have been added to our

schedule so we can be the best we can be for this contest performance.

For the first time in a VERY long time, two quartets from the Tulsa Chapter will be vying for their chance to follow Tulsa's **Cooligans** as Quartet Champions of the (Continued on page 3)

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Wanted:

Your ideas, thoughts, input. The editorial staff of **The QuarterNote** is on the lookout for articles of interest to both members and friends of the Tulsa #1 chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society. Please feel free to contact us by email at tulsafounders@cox.net. All reasonable comments will be included in future issues unless you specifically ask us not to. Please be courteous. Please sign your message. Messages without signatures will be deleted.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Fall and Holiday Concerts Scheduled

The Founders Chorus is not just about competing you know. The Fall 2004 concert season is upon us already. The Very Best in vocal harmony is coming to Tulsa on **Saturday, September 25th** at John Knox Presbyterian Church (2929 E.31st St). A cabaret style venue will be the setting for an evening of entertainment that will be the highlight of your weekend. Enjoy snacks and soft drinks and a festive atmosphere while you are swept away by the close harmony of Tulsa's best Barber-shop Quartets and the Premier Men's Chorus in northeastern Oklahoma, [The Founders Chorus](#). Tickets will be on sale

soon. Order yours today by calling (918) 622-5392 or emailing tulsa-founders@cox.net.

The Founders Chorus has been invited back to **Coffeyville Community College** for a performance at the Spenser-Rounds auditorium on December 10th. **"Holidays in Harmony"** is the theme and we will be performing some of your favorite holiday music to get us all in the mood for the season. Ticket information will soon be posted on the [Coffeyville Community College](#) website or you can call (620) 251-7700.

Not to be forgotten is the ever popular **"Lights On" Ceremony at Utica Square**. The Founders Chorus has helped John Erling and Santa Claus with this "official" start to the Christmas Season in Tulsa for over 15 years and we're anticipating an invitation again this year. So, after the turkey, dressing, and "razzelberry pudding" has been cleared away, make your way to Utica Square and join the thousands cheering Santa as he throws the switch to turn on the thousands of lights adorning the trees at Utica Square on Thanksgiving night.

Letters to the Editor

This space is reserved for
**YOU! Submit your
comments, suggestions,
complaints, ideas ...
whatever to
tulsafounders@cox.net**

The President's Corner By Bruce Bellen, Chapter President

Bruce is on vacation this month. Seems like since his retirement he's on vacation all the time gallivanting here and there, doing this and that, spending time w/ his family. You know doing all those "retirement" things. Hmmmm... I think he's working harder now than when he was gainfully employed.

Bruce will be back with his comments in the November issue of **The QuarterNote**.

Commitments

From The Editor's Desk By David Roberts, QuarterNote Editor

Opinions in this section are those of the editor alone and are not to be construed as coming from the Tulsa #1 Chapter of SPEBSQSA

How many of us can honestly say that we are not thrilled by the wonderful full-voiced sound of our Society's Champion caliber choruses? You know the ones: **The Vocal Majority**, **The Masters of Harmony**, or our 2004 champs, **Ambassadors of Harmony**. What makes them so special? Do they not step into their tux pants one leg at a time just like the rest of us? I can assure you they do. What is it then that gives them such an edge over other equally well-singing choruses? I can tell you in just one word: **COMMITMENT**.

Oh, sure, you might say (as I have many times), they have a much larger population of singers to draw upon and have access to all kinds of experts helping them in singing, stage presence, marketing; all those things that make the "Big Boys" stay at the top of the game. Well, all that's true; and they probably would not be as CONSISTANT as they are without that help. But without their Commitment, they'd be just another chorus; just like us and the rest of

the B and C level choruses.

It is their **Commitment to Excellence** that keeps them on top. They listen to their director; and, just as important, they listen to themselves. They refuse to settle for anything less than their personal best whether at a public performance, on the contest stage or "just at rehearsal".

Doesn't the VM put their tux pants on one leg at a time—just like I do? So, what's the point?

So, The Tulsa #1 Chapter has asked its members to make a commitment; and most of you have. In fact, most of you have chosen the most demanding level of commitment—that of the Contest Level Chorus. I congratulate you on your choice! I, like you, am confident that the people who will be making the tough calls as to who of us actually makes that group will do so in the best interests of the Cho-

rus with only the goal of bettering our contest placement at heart.

But why do this anyway? What is the point? The point is that we cannot allow this chapter to stagnate. Even in Tulsa there is a demand by the public for performers to be worthy of being on stage. The audience has a right to expect a singing group to be entertaining; to make them feel they didn't waste their money, and more importantly, their time. That's the point. We must want to show our colors in the best light. Our colors are our performances. This commitment we've made will make us better. It will fill seats at our shows. It will improve our reputation in the Tulsa arts community. It will introduce our style of singing to countless people who have a yearning to sing and perform and are looking for an outlet to satisfy that desire. It will gain us new members and work to sustain our chapter—the FOUNDING chapter; "The Grand Old Chapter", for years to come.

Directorially Speaking By Charles Campbell, Director—Founders Chorus

Thanks again to the members of the Founders Chorus for the opportunity Dale and I had to attend Harmony College/Director's College. You guys are the best. I am also excited about your response to the new chorus voice placement moves and I feel it is going to move us forward and better the sound of the chorus. Of course there will still be some challenges to bring the members along who have not been in attendance for the last few weeks. I am especially excited with the work of Ron Black

and know his coaching is going to get us started on the road to better vocal health and better singing.

Ron's work with us last Tuesday evening (8/24) on the vowel matching really made the correct singing of the vowel sounds easier to understand. I am pleased with the comments from many of you who say you believe you now understand how the vowel sounds all relate to one another. This coming Tuesday will build on that and

should expand our knowledge.

I am hopeful now that with school starting, we can get increased regular attendance. We have a lot of work to do for the District Contest and our Fall shows which are coming up all too soon.

Many thanks to Dave Roberts for this new communication tool.

Charles

Founders Chorus and Quartets Prepare for Dallas (Continued from page one)

[SouthWestern District](#). **Dave & Company** (Paul Whitmarsh, Dave Stevens, Charles Campbell, Mark Church) and [Final Note](#) (Ken Ackley, Tim Thompson, Richard Newhart, Dave Roberts) have set aside the evening of October 23rd so they'll be available to sing in the finals that evening. Both quartets are working hard tweaking their sound and visual performances to please the crowd (and the judges).

Following in the footsteps of **Cooligans** won't be easy though. Thirty-One quartets have qualified including favorites **McKinley Street Function**, **Rogues of the Rio Grande**, and **Flashback**; all in the top five last year.

Rumor has it that there is just a little bit of friendly competition between our two quartet representatives. Details are sketchy, but **Final Note** is itching to best D&C and

erase the smudge from Hot Springs when they fell to **Dave & Company's** well performed second set and came in seventh overall.

For more information about attending this convention/contest log on to http://www.swd.org/html/2004_fall.htm.

The staff at **The QuarterNote** wishes the Best of Luck to ALL the contestants and performers this year.

Tulsa Founders Chorus

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The Birthplace of The Barbershop
Harmony Society



The Founders Chorus is the PERFORMING ENSEMBLE of the Tulsa #1 Chapter of The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA). Now officially called "The Barbershop Harmony Society", SPEBSQSA was born in Tulsa on April 11, 1938, when 26 men gathered on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club to preserve the Old-Fashioned American art form of close four-part harmony.

We of The Founders Chorus are proud of our heritage as the Birthplace of The Barbershop Harmony Society, and invite you to JOIN US IN SONG each Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 2929 E. 31st Street. Call (918) 622-5392 or email tulsafounders@cox.net for further information.

Visit The Founders Chorus
on the Web at ...

www.swd.org/founders

Upcoming Events

September 25, 2004	PERFORMANCE - Fall Concert and Parade of Quartets - John Knox Presbyterian
October 14, 2004	Special Thursday rehearsal for District Contest
October 21, 2004	Special Thursday rehearsal for District Contest
October 22 - 24, 2004	SWD District Convention & Contest - Dallas, TX
November 2, 2004	Guest Night
November 21-22, 2004	SWD COTS (Chapter Operations Training School)
November 25, 2004	PERFORMANCE - "Light's On" Ceremony - Utica Square
December 10, 2004	PERFORMANCE—"Holidays In Harmony" at Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, KS