

Huronia Harmonizers hard at work to prepare for big events

The Huronia Harmonizers, Midland's chartered chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America is hard at work preparing for two big events — an April 23 SPEBSQA Convention in Peterborough, and their second annual Parade of Harmony, to be held in Midland May 29. The Midland chorus has a quartet, the Mid-Knights, and they will be featured performers in the May Parade, along with quartets from Toronto. "Strolling Down Harmony Lane" in the May Parade theme.



Barbershopping

Began in Oklahoma

Barbershopping began in Tulsa Oklahoma in April, 1938. Their motto is "Keep (North) America Singing", and doing their best to uphold that creed are, back row — Jim Widmeyer, Bob Armstrong, Jim Lynn, Harry Brown, Will Elliott. Middle row: Murray Tyndall, and Roy Hayward. Front row: Jack LaBrie, Frank Gleadall, Hee Adams, and Jim Walsh. Glenn Campbell is director.

Fellowship abounds

Costuming is important too, and all 43 of the Huronia Harmonizers have identical outfits for stage work. Fellowship and good humour abound, as evidenced in the names some SPEBSQAs have chosen for themselves — The Credit Chords, The Four Tissimos, and The Incisionaires (four medics).



A tight rehearsal

Music Director Glenn Campbell runs a tightly scheduled rehearsal each Tuesday night at St. Paul's United Church. He's always looking for new members. There are four teenagers in the Huronia Harmonizers chorus, and Barber Shop folklore has it that the Osmond brothers got their start in Barber Shopping.

Campbell stresses uniform attacks and releases. The Barber Shopper's code insists that they "refrain from forcing their songs on unwilling ears", and Campbell works hard to achieve perfection for performances, called "parades".

Each rehearsal features a session of "pole-cutting" when impromptu quartet rise from the chorus to sing old favourites, from memory.

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Largest all-male singing organization

SPEBSQSA is the largest all-male singing organization in the world and through their singing, they raise funds for the Logopedics Institute in Wichita, Kansas, which is dedicated to helping children with speech defects. Barber shop music is unaccompanied harmony for four voices with a high tenor constantly riding above the melody. Women barber shop enthusiasts are organized into the Sweet Adelaines. The chortial group above consists of Bob Megaw, a wandering journalist, Ed Guthrie, Archie Campbell in the front row. Behind them are Danny Moreau, Ken Donaldson, and Lawrence Ladouceur. In the back row are Bob Armstrong, Jim Lynn and Harry Brown.

Cassettes of popular numbers are available for learning purposes and members are urged to memorize their parts as soon as they can. Music is never used for performance, partly because precision choreography accompanies each show tune.

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