



MILE HIGH MONTHLY

# SOUNDINGS



## FROM THE SOUND OF THE ROCKIES

Mile High Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America  
Volume 4 Number 1 March 2003

### “IN THE MOOD”

On April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, **Sound of the Rockies Chorus** will transport their audience back to the 1940s with a musical salute to the “Greatest Generation” of World War II – those who fought in the war and their families who supported them from the homefront. The show will feature the chorus and three quartets singing many of the popular songs of that era, including “In The Mood,” “Jukebox Saturday Night,” and “As Time Goes By.” The second half of the show will feature the **Gas House Gang**, 1993 International Quartet Champions from the St. Louis area, and **Ms. Behavin’**, the Sweet Adeline 2002 Region 8 quartet champions from the **Skyline Chorus**. The show will be completed by **SOR** singing the contest songs to be performed in Montreal for the international competition in July – “Only You” and Toot-Toot-Tootsie, Good-Bye.”

The shows are on Friday evening, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m., Saturday afternoon, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., and Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Teikyo Loretto Heights Theater, 3001 S. Federal Blvd. Details and tickets are available through the **SOR** website at [www.soundoftherockies.com](http://www.soundoftherockies.com). **SOR** members are also distributing flyers and selling tickets for the shows.

### GUEST QUARTETS

Our featured quartet in the show is one of the most popular and well known quartets in the Society – **Gas House Gang** from St. Charles, Missouri. This quartet was formed in 1987, and they won the 1993

International Quartet Championship in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Since that time, they have performed in 49 states and 13 countries and have recorded four CDs, with a fifth CD to be released this summer.

Rich Knight, lead, provides a gifted personality to the quartet, with his genuine and fluid sound. He has been a Society member since the late 1970s and is a high school drafting teacher. Jim Henry is the “booming” bass of the four and teaches choral music at Lindenwood University, having earned a Ph.D. in music. He has been a barbershopper since age 11 and directs the **Ambassadors of Harmony** in St. Charles, who have won eight chorus medals in the past nine years and placed third in the International chorus contest four times. Rob Henry sings a smooth baritone, having joined the Society in 1980, and is also a director for the same chorus, possibly because he and brother Jim are both second-generation barbershoppers. Kip Buckner, tenor, joined the Society at age 14, learned his craft with the **Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus**, and has won two quartet gold medals with the **Interstate Rivals** in 1987 and the **Gas House Gang** in 1993. These four gentlemen are among the most entertaining a cappella groups around.

Our other guest quartet will be **Ms. Behavin’**, the Sweet Adelines 2002 Region 8 quartet champions. Forming in 2001, these lovely ladies of the **Skyline Chorus**, currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the Sweet Adeline chorus competition, quickly moved as a contender for Sweet Adeline’s quartet competition. Monica Kastman is their dynamic lead, Sue Brown sings bass, Heather Tavel provides the meaning of life in

**OFFICERS AND MUSIC TEAM 2003  
MILE HIGH CHAPTER**

President	Dan Clark
Immediate Past President	Mike Wadsley
Musical Director	Darin Drown
Assistant Director/Choreography	Jim Clark
Secretary	Dick Stark
Treasurer	Terry Morrison
VP Membership Services	Geoff Quelch
VP Music/Performance	Mark Zenk
VP Events	Myron Swisher
VP Public Relations/Marketing	Jerry Lippert
Members at Large	Mitch Johnson
	Denny Malone
Section Leaders	
Tenors	Dave Ellis
Leads	Chris Vaughn
Baritones	Jim Weaver
Bass Co-Leaders	Mark Zenk
	Chris Richards
Music Committee Advisor	George Davidson
Quartet Development	Dennis Cook
Music Librarian	Jerry O'Halloran
Learning Tapes	George Smith
Learning CDs	Dave Ellis
Uniforms	Dave Orr, Jim Weaver
Show Producer	George Davidson
Roster Manager/WebMaster	Chris Pomasl

**SOUNDINGS**

John Manion, Editor

Website Edition: [www.soundoftherockies.com](http://www.soundoftherockies.com)

**Guest Quartets (cont.)**

the baritone swipe, and Rosemary Baltensberger has sung tenor in four quartets. These harmonious women will exhibit an excellent balance and entertaining style in April.

**2002 AWARDS**

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Denver Mile High Chapter met at the Denver Radisson Hotel Southeast to install the 2003 officers and to recognize outstanding members for 2002, a great year for the **Sound of the Rockies Chorus**. Awards were presented by

outgoing president Mike Wadsley and others to a number of **SOR** members.

**BARBERSHOPPER  
OF THE YEAR**

Barbershopper of the Year honors went to a 20-year member of the Society – Jim Jensen. Jim and his wife Judy moved to the Denver area and joined the Denver Tech Chapter. Jim is an avid musician and accomplished singer who has been active in a wide variety of ways in the Denver Tech and Mile High chapters, taking on a number of projects. His latest effort has been to add his photographic and computer skills to produce the *Mile High Weekly*, the electronic publication that keeps us all informed on chapter activities and upcoming events. He has been a source of information for chapter officers and is also able to get the word out to chapter members quickly. Jim has sung in a number of quartets and has competed at the district level, and his comedy skills have made his audiences laugh. His engaging smile make him a delight in any group, and he has always been ready with a capable “bag of tricks” to accomplish many tasks to promote the **SOR**. Jim has worked diligently to recognize others in the chapter, and it is only fitting that he receive this recognition himself.

**LIFETIME  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This is not an award presented every year, and it is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Denver Mile High Chapter. It is given to a member who has devoted himself unselfishly in outstanding service to the ideals of the Society. This award is presented to a member who regularly attends chapter activities and contributes greatly over a long period of time as a Society member for at least 20 years. The 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Gerard Smith. He has been a member of the Society for 48 years, many of those with the Denver Tech and Mile High chapters. He has exhibited an unlimited enthusiasm for barbershop singing and has been considered a leader of the

baritone section. He has won the **RMD** quartet championship twice, being the only person to have done it in two different voice parts. He sang baritone with **It's About Time** and lead with **Sound Syndicate**, both in Rapid City. He also placed 10<sup>th</sup> at the International level with the **Platonics** in 1960 and 1961. Gerry has served in several chapter leadership positions and has shared his wisdom and knowledge of the hobby with others. In recent years, physical problems have limited his ability to perform, but such limitations have not reduced his enthusiasm or contributions through the Singing Valentine program and other efforts for the Denver Mile High Chapter.

### **FOUNDERS AWARD**

Jim Jensen presented the Founders Award to honor a member for his outstanding attitude, attendance, and accomplishments in his first eighteen months of membership in the chapter. This award is in honor of the dedicated work of the founders of the Society, the Rocky Mountain District, and the Denver Mile High Chapter. Randy Johnson joined the chapter in March 2002 and since then has been deeply involved in chapter activities, including the rehearsal venue search committee, the Rotary performance last October, and work on the chapter website, exhibiting enthusiasm and congeniality in everything he does. Randy has been one of the most dynamic of our newer members.

### **SPIRIT OF HARMONY AWARD**

Mike presented the Spirit of Harmony Award to Myron Swisher. This award is for the member who reflects the Society qualities of congeniality and good character and who has worked hardest to encourage participation in vocal harmony by chapter visitors and members. This award reflects the spirit and ideals of Society founder O.C. Cash. Myron has taken on great challenges and handles each of them with sincere interest and attention to

detail. His work as Vice President of Events was pivotal for **SOR**'s trips to Portland and Greeley to win 8<sup>th</sup> place in the Society and the district championship, the success of the Rotary Club show in October, and the singing of the national anthem for the Denver Broncos in December. Myron has carried out all of these functions as well as his own **SOR** performance with enthusiasm and joy.

Mike also presented several Presidential Citations for outstanding commitment and service to the chapter. These included an award to Jim Albrecht for his role in the successful Singing Valentines and his assistance to Gerry Smith during the year. Terry Dodd was honored for his efforts in chairing the rehearsal venue search. Jim Jensen was honored for his outstanding work in creating and sending out the *Mile High Weekly* on e-mail to keep the chapter members up to date on activities. Steve Kientz received this award for coordinating chapter quartet activities, especially for events such as the Singing Valentine campaign. Dick Lenzen was honored for his efforts in handling lodging and accommodations for coaches and other visitors to the chapter. John Manion was awarded for his production of the monthly *Soundings* newsletter. Adam Nafziger was honored for his efforts as ticket sales chairman for the spring and Christmas shows. Randy Nelson was awarded for planning and setting up his excellent set designs for the chapter shows. Jerry O'Halloran was honored for his "gung ho" efforts for everything from **SOR** sheet music to getting media contacts and initiating chapter events during the year. Dave Orr was honored for his role in arranging for and providing uniforms for **SOR** members, including the new informal uniforms. Jerry Perron received an award for his efforts to teach chapter members basic music theory and how to understand all those funny symbols and foreign phrases. Doug Porrey was honored for his efforts to sell all those King Soopers/Safeway grocery coupons to provide extra income for the chapter. Bob Young was honored for his work in moving the riser trailer around the front range area and getting the risers set up and taken down, as well as taking care of the risers and trailer.

Mike then recognized Carol Welch and the Mile High Belles for all their work to support **SOR** during this exciting year of events and competition. He highlighted his part of the awards presentation with a Top 10 list of the most memorable things from 2002 for **SOR**, culminating with “**SOR** kicks butt in Portland (Watch out, Montreal!).”

The Denver Mile High Chapter leaders for 2002 were recognized, and the new officers for 2003 were installed by Tony Pranaitis, the new **RMD** president from the **Denver Mountaineers**.

## **RMD SPRING CONVENTION**

The next big barbershop event in this area will be the RMD spring convention on April 25-26. This includes the preliminary competition for quartets who wish to compete at the 2003 International in Montreal. Even **Storm Front**, who won the RMD quartet contest in Greeley last September, is required to compete here to qualify for the quartet competition in Montreal in July. All events will be held at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield northwest of Denver towards Boulder. The hotel is easily accessible from US 36. It is within walking distance from the Flat Irons Crossing Mall.

In addition to the quartet competition, a new event this year will be the RMD Invitational. This expands the “Small Chorus/VLQ Contest” by allowing small choruses or VLQs (very large quartets) to compete with a package of eleven minutes of entertainment which includes two standard contest songs to be judged by the judging panel according to SPEBSQSA rules. Small choruses or VLQs may still perform with the standard format of two contestable songs. During this eleven minute package, the group can sing other songs or use dialogue or other show enhancement to create an entertaining performance. A group using this package format must inform the judges prior to their performance which two songs will be the standard contest songs and at what point in the package they are to be performed. The

audience will judge an entertainment score for each group after an oral briefing from the master of ceremonies. Awards for this event include RMD Small Chorus Champion, RMD Invitational Entertainment Winner, and Overall RMD Invitational Champion. This is not a preliminary competition for the International, but it is a great source of pride for small choruses from chapters of less than 50 members and will provide great entertainment for our audiences.

The registration for the RMD Spring Convention is \$35 for adults and \$20 for students under 18 years old. All competitors must purchase the overall convention registration. This registration includes all of the events of the convention – the quartet semifinals and finals, the RMD Invitational, and the afterglow. Each event is also open to the public at \$12 for adults and \$8 for students. Convention pre-registration will ensure seating, as the performances may be sold out to non-barbershoppers. Family members may buy event tickets at the Omni on that weekend, but registration will ensure seating at the events. Registration forms will be available through the RMD website at [www.rmdsing.org](http://www.rmdsing.org) and in the upcoming *Vocal Expressions*.

Another feature of the convention will be a number of groups that will perform at the end of each contest while scoring is being completed. On Friday evening, after the quartet semifinals, the Sweet Adeline **Skyline Chorus**, 6th place in the world, will perform. The Denver A Cappella Project will perform after the RMD Invitational on Saturday afternoon. The Saturday evening quartet finals will be concluded by the **Sound of the Rockies Chorus**, 2002 RMD champions, and by **Classic Collection**, 1982 International Quartet Champions. The many fine quartets and choruses from throughout RMD will provide outstanding entertainment as well as showing what type of talent will be going to Montreal from our area. RMD is encouraging pre-registration for the convention to ensure seating, as well as an excellent value for this weekend.

One other event that will be available through the RMD convention is a baseball game on Sunday, April 27, at Coors Field in Denver. The RMD convention committee is hoping to put together a RMD convention chorus to sing the national anthem prior to the game between the Colorado Rockies and the Chicago Cubs at 1:05 p.m.

## **MONTREAL PLACEMENT**

A drawing for chorus placement was completed on Tuesday, March 18th, for the SPEBSQSA International Convention in Montreal, and the results were announced by Todd Wilson, a member of the Society board of directors. The choruses were divided into three sizes, with larger choruses requiring more risers performing at the end of the competition. As a result, **SOR** will perform next to last of the 22 choruses competing. The complete listing of chorus order is available on the Society website at [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org). The **Saltaires** of Wasatch Front, Utah, were offered a “wild card” entry based on their high score at Greeley last September, but they have declined the entry and will not compete in Montreal.

## **SINGING VALENTINES**

**SOR** completed two days of Singing Valentines in the Denver metro area on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. While the number of gigs did not reach the goal set by the chapter for this year, 18 quartets traveled far and wide to spread barbershop romantic music to loving couples. The experiences are once again very emotional and often amusing, as told by quartet members. **Sound Assembly** performed to a teacher at Marantha School in front of her class. They sang “Coney Island Baby” to the class as an encore, adding some stage presence. A little girl to whom they had pointed during the song asked, “Do I really have big feet?” The **Kowalski Twins** had another member added to their quartet, as a cat joined their song, singing “counter-tenor.” They even believe that the cat sang the last note of the

song in proper harmony (Editor – how do you know which note harmonizes with **KT**?). I joined a last-minute quartet to do several gigs on Saturday evening. We arrived at an apartment in Aurora and were greeted by a young man who had serious romantic intentions. He had lined up many candles to set up the proper ambience and called his girl friend, who lived in a nearby apartment, to come up. As we finished our last song, the two were closely embraced and obviously wishing that we would exit quickly. No one else has produced records to dispute **Sound Assembly’s** travel, but Terry Dodd indicated that he covered 230 miles in his Dodge Durango.

## **NEW VENUES**

**SOR** has completed arrangements for both a new rehearsal and concert venue. Rehearsals now take place at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, 8817 South Broadway, in Highlands Ranch. The church is approximately one-quarter mile south of the Broadway exit of C-470 and is located on the west side of Broadway. Rehearsals are still on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. with choreography rehearsal beginning at 6:00 p.m.

A new performance venue will be available to **SOR** beginning with the Christmas show next December. Denver University is now completing the Newman Performing Arts Center. The Gates Concert Hall will seat 1,000 and feature state-of-the-art facilities for music performance. This new building will move the Lamont School of Music to the University Park Campus on South University Boulevard at Illiff Avenue with convenient nearby parking.

## **CD HAPPENINGS**

**SOR** released their first CD last September at the RMD fall convention in Greeley, and it has received rave reviews in the internet sites on which it is being sold. Mainely A Cappella has called our CD “a terrific debut recording!” and commented that we can ring the chords and blend lush harmonies. On top of that, the **SOR** CD has been nominated for the 2003 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards

as the best barbershop album, along with **Toronto Northern Lights'** *Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?* This nomination is the result of reviews by industry professionals of all a cappella recordings released in 2002. It seems that **SOR** has another goal besides chorus medals at International. We also have another link to this award, as the 2002 barbershop winner was **Millenium's** *Millenium*. This quartet was the 2000 College Quartet Champion, featuring our own Sid Libsack singing bass.

For those who may not have heard, **Storm Front** has released their first CD, called *Storm Watch*. This CD features many of the district champion's favorites, including "Jezebel," "Muskrat Ramble," "Bring Him Home" and "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables" from the popular Broadway musical, *Les Miserables*, and a quartet favorite, the zany Ray Stevens' composition "Guitarzan."

These CDs are available at **SOR** rehearsals and also through the **SOR**, **Storm Front**, and Harmony Marketplace sites at [www.soundoftherockies.com](http://www.soundoftherockies.com), [www.stormfrontquartet.com](http://www.stormfrontquartet.com), and as a link from the Society website at [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org), or directly at [www.harmonymarketplace.com](http://www.harmonymarketplace.com). Sales and more information on awards are available from the Mainely A Cappella site at [mac3.a-cappella.com](http://mac3.a-cappella.com).

## BARBERSHOPPERS OF THE MONTH

The Mile High Chapter continues to recognize outstanding members with the Barbershopper of the Month Award. Several have been presented in recent weeks.

**Dan Clark** – Our current chapter president, Dan is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and works as a computer systems engineer. He has only been singing barbershop for a few years, but he has sung in church choirs for most of his life. He is proud of his lovely wife and two sons. He is an avid fly fisherman and loves to tinker with classic cars and remodel houses, although he does count on a professional plumber to complete the job. He also

has excellent interpersonal skills, even getting along quite well with his mother-in-law. He has been honored for his chapter leadership and working behind the scenes to make our website more user friendly. He also has been a key player in spreading the good news about **SOR** among the general public, as our former public relations VP.

**Randy Johnson** - Born in Honolulu, Randy comes from four generations of Colorado natives, as his grandfather and great-grandfather farmed in the Littleton area in the early 1900s. He designs websites, collects antique books, and grows giant pumpkins on his family estate. Randy is a singer and guitar player, but his first barbershop experience was an **SOR** concert in Littleton in November 2001, when he and his wife Carol were "blown away." He has developed our chapter web site into its current form and continues to nurture it as the on-line presence of **SOR**.

**Geoff Quelch** – An immigrant from England, Geoff was born about 30 miles west of London. He has been a barbershop singer for less than a year, but he has sung for many years, including the Athens Choral Society at the University of Georgia. He came to Denver through North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Georgia, where he met his lovely wife Sandra. He acquired a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry and loves computers, reading non-fiction, and is writing a book on alternative history. Geoff has also added his computer talents to our website and is honored for his contributions in spreading the on-line word about barbershop.

**Frank DeBello** – A Denver native, Frank has sang barbershop for two decades. A retired accountant, Frank is proud of his 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. He has been an active member of his church choir and is described as a caring and selfless person who always looks to be helpful and supportive. Frank served as chairman of ticket sales for **SOR's** Christmas show, manning his phone to fill ticket orders. We are honoring him for this effort and his many other contributions of time and expertise on behalf of **SOR**.

**Steve Dickin** – Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, Steve is a successful residential realtor who has been a member of Denver Mile High for a mere three years but has performed outstanding service for the chapter. He is proud of his lovely wife Carol and their two children. A singer, golfer, music and sports trivia buff, he loves computers and curling, although limited by all but our recent winter weather experience. He put his organization skills into good use in providing the logistics for the recent Singing Valentine campaign, keeping the quartets well supplied with flowers and candy.

## **GROCERY COUPONS PROVIDE \$5,500**

Doug Porrey's relentless efforts to sell Safeway and King Soopers grocery coupons provided the chapter with an additional income of \$5,500 for 2002. Fifty chapter members bought \$110,000 in coupons, with thirty buying \$1,000 or more each. Doug, Bob Young, Jerry Lippert, and Dick Lenzen were the top buyers in this campaign, which gives five percent of your grocery money from these coupons to the chapter. As you and your family will spend these dollars on groceries, it is quite painless to shop with these coupons and provide some extra income to the chapter.

April 5 – **Denver Mountaineers** Annual Show "Aboard The Delta Queen," featuring guest quartets **Ms. Behavin'** and **Kowalski Twins**, Kennedy High School, 2855 South Lamar Street, shows at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

April 10 – technical rehearsal for annual show, Teikyo Loretto Heights Theater, 3001 S. Federal Blvd.

April 11-12 – "In The Mood," Annual Spring Show for **SOR** with **Gas House Gang** and **Ms. Behavin'**, Teikyo Loretto Heights Theater

April 25-26 – RMD Spring Convention, Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, CO

April 26 – **SOR** performance after quartet finals at RMD Spring Convention

April 27 – RMD Convention Chorus singing national anthem at Coors Field, Colorado Rockies vs. Chicago Cubs

May 8 – rehearsal coaching session with Dr. Greg Lyne

May 15 – rehearsal coaching session with David and Holly Harrington

May 17 – Longmont Chapter annual show, "You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet, Vance Brand Civic Auditorium, Longmont, CO

May 20-June 1 – **SOR** retreat at Silver Creek Lodge in Granby, coaching by Cindy Hansen

June 29-July 6 – SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contests, Montreal, Canada

July 18-19 – Silverton Barbershop Music Festival, Joe Liles, chorus director, Silverton, CO

July 27-August 3 – Harmony/Directors College, Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, MO

August 15-16 – **SOR** retreat at Silver Creek Lodge in Granby, coaching by Cindy Hansen

August 23 – **Skyline** Sweet Adeline annual show

September 16-20 – Sweet Adelines annual convention in Phoenix, AZ

October 10-12 – RMD Fall Convention in Salt Lake City, UT

November 8-9 – RMD Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS) in Denver, CO

December 20 – **SOR** Christmas Shows at DU's Newman Center Gates Concert Hall

January 25-February 1, 2004 – SPEBSQSQ Midwinter Convention, Biloxi, MS

April 23-25, 2004 – RMD Spring Convention and Preliminaries

June 27-July 4, 2004 – SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contests, Louisville, KY

July 3-9, 2005 – SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contests, Salt Lake City, UT

July 2-8, 2007 – SPEBSQSA International Convention and Contests, Denver, CO