

## **VP Music Report July 2018**

- The Saturday, June 16, coaching session with Chris Lewis was well attended and very well received. Chris and Director helped the members get a better understanding of how to merge the Bel Canto coaching with the more traditional classic coaching. There were a number of key take-aways. Those pertaining to posture and breathing will eventually become second nature. But for the moment we need to remind the chorus to do them. Other key take-aways from the session are:
  - Turn the diphthongs
  - Articulate the consonants
  - Energize the ends of phrases
  - Raise the soft pallet

Even though we've been working on this for a while, implementing these concepts requires more direct effort on the part of the members, Director, Assistant Directors and Section Leaders. For some of men who have been singing barbershop for 20+ years, the adjustment take considerably more concentrated effort.

- Music Team has a plan to help reinforce the concepts mentioned above during rehearsals and sectionals. We are optimistic that it will result in moving the chorus from "occasionally" doing the above to "regularly" doing the above, and eventually, "consistently" doing the above.
- The following new standard repertoire songs have been purchased, received and uploaded to Groupanizer (score and learning tracks):
  - Are You Lonesome Tonight
  - Blue Velvet
  - Hello, My Baby
- A Wink and A Smile is not currently available through BHS. VP Music has requested rights to duplicate and perform. Approval should be received by the end of July. This song is one of the two contest songs for 2019.
- The Music Team also has selected Country Roads as a repertoire song. However, there is no arrangement currently available through BHS for men's voicing. (There is a medley arrangement, but that's not the one we want.) The

arrangement is only approved for distribution in Australia and New Zealand. BHS is finding out what it will take to get rights in the US. Depending on the cost, we may opt for a different song.

- We are also looking at adjustments to our Holiday repertoire. The following songs have been identified and purchased. We have score and learning tracks.
  - Little Saint Nick
  - Text Me Merry Christmas
  - Deck the Halls
  - Jingle Bell Rock
  - Twelve Days of Christmas

All but Twelve Days of Christmas will be part of the Cabaret performance on Dec 1, 2018.

- The Music Team will be incorporating more quartetting activity into rehearsals. The quartetting survey conducted by John Wanless indicated a high degree of interest among members for both experiencing singing in a quartet and forming one. Our plan is to have members that are interested take the place of one of the members of an existing organized quartet and sing a basic song with that quartet (most likely a Pole Cat).

We also intend to host another Quartet Coaching Saturday. Timing has not been determined.