

THE VANISHING CHORD:

I Can't Remember You

Actors:

- Man at Desk – Eliot Rubinov
- 007th (aka, Flames Pond) – Steve Sammonds
- Bb Minor – Jordan Makower

Chapter Quartets (in order of appearance):

- MetroGnomes
- Vocal Capital
- Bascom Avenue 4
- Generations Apart

Chorus Songs in this skit (in order of performance):

- Hello My Baby
- 409
- Bye Bye Blues
- Secret Agent Man
- Hello Mary Lou
- They'll Be No New Tunes on this Old Piano
- Country Roads
- Secret Agent Man
- On a Wonderful Day Like Today

Uniform for Chorus during skit:

- Multi-layers to give the effect of different choruses being affected by Disrememberation.
 - Bottom layer (Layer 1) - travel uniform: khaki pants & blue short sleeve shirt.
 - Middle layer (Layer 2) - ??
 - Outer layer (Layer 3) – light-weight jacket. Any color.

Scene One

[Man at desk busily writing. Desk has phone & computer monitor.

Intercom buzzer rings. Man answers.]

Female voice: He's here sir.

Man: Send him in, Miss Harmony. And get me everything you can on that new criminal organization: The Appalling Cartel to Hinder Intoned Words. I hear they call themselves ACHIW (pronounces "achoo")

Miss Harmony: Yes, Sir.

[Man returns to papers.]

007th enters the room]

Man: 007th. Glad you're here. Sit down. We have a situation. Watch this. It's a recording of a barbershop performance.

[Pushes remote control button to start a recording. Chorus sings **HELLO MY BABY.**] [Pushes remote control button to end recording.]

007th: That was fabulous, Sir.

Man: I know. I know. That's not the point. Now watch this. One week later at another performance. The same song.

[Chorus starts singing the same song but can't remember the words after the 2nd or 3rd measure. They stop, try it again. Fail. Try again. Fail again.]

Pushes button to stop recording.]

007th: OK. They made a mistake. Why call me?

Man: It's not just a mistake, 007th, it's Disrememberation!

007th: Disrememberation?

Man: Yes. It's been happening to choruses and quartets all over the place. One week the performers are fine. The next performance, they can't remember the words. Watch this.

[Pushed remote control button.]

[Chorus sings another song **409.** No problem.]

[Pushes remote control button to stop recording.]

Man: The next performance a few weeks later. Same song.

[Pushes remote control button. Same song. But can't remember words after 2nd or 3rd measure.

Pushes button to stop recording.]

007th: Hmmm. I see.

Man: We thinks it's ACHIW [pronounced "achoo" – like a sneeze].

007th: Bless you, Sir.

Man: What's that?

007th: Bless you?

Man: What?

007th: You sneezed.

Man: I did not. As I was saying, we think it's ACHIW.

007th: Bless you, Sir.

Man: What?

007th: You sneezed again.

Man: Pay attention, 007th. We think a dastardly organization has sent their most evil agent to interfere with the memory of singers all over the world.

007th: Sounds like despicable evil agent, Bb Minor. I've come up against him before.

Man: Yes! But now we think he's working with ACHIW.

007th: Bless you, Sir.

Man: Ugh!

[Man pushed button on intercom.]

Man: Miss Harmony, we're sending 007th to Sunnyvale, CA. See to it.

Miss Harmony: Yes, Sir.

Man: That will be all 007th.

[007th leaves. Man starts another recording. Chorus sings perfectly **BYE BYE BLUES.**]

[Pushes Remote control button to end recording.]

Man: Beautiful. That's the way it's supposed to be.

Scene Two

[At Peninsulaires Rehearsal Hall. Men are on risers. Happy. Director speaks.]

Director: Well, guys. For the last thing at tonight's rehearsal, we have a quartet to perform. They have a gig tomorrow and wanted to do a run through before the show. Here's (**MetroGnomes**).

[**MetroGnomes** sings first song. Goes great. As they do so, Bb Minor sneaks in.]

Director: Nicely done, gents. Let's hear another one.

[Bb Minor zaps them with his Disrememberation controller. SOUND EFFECT.

007th enters the room.

MetroGnomes starts the 2nd song but can't remember the words after 2nd or 3rd measure.]

Director: That's OK. Give it another try.

[**MetroGnomes** starts again. Fails again.]

007th: Hold on there! I think I know what's happening. That evil villain, Bb Minor, must have zapped you with his Disrememberation ray.

Chorus: Disrememberation! Oh, no!

Director: Bb Minor? I heard he had joined ACHIW.

007th: Bless you.

Director: What?

007th: I said, Bless you.

Director: Huh?

007th: You sneezed.

Director: Uhh. Never mind. Who are you?

007th: Pond. Flames Pond.

Director: Well, Pond Flames Pond, why are you here?

007th: No. It's Pond. Flames Pond.

Director: Whatever. Why are you here?

007th: I've had dealings with agent Bb Minor before. I know his every move.

[Bb Minor walks up to Director and 007th.]

Bb Minor: Do you think you can catch him?

007th: I know I can!

Bb Minor: Hmmm. [As he walks off the stage.]

Director: Tell me, Mr. Pond, who sent you and why?

007th: I'm 007th. Top Secret Agent for Chord Ringer, the Barbershop Singing Security Agency. It's a dangerous job. But someone has to do it!

[Chorus sings **SECRET AGENT MAN** here and have a video/PowerPoint presentation of 007th doing heroic secret agent things.]

But enough about me, do you have another quartet? I'd like to check them as well.

[Vocal Capital comes up. Sings. No problem.]

007th: Well, looks like he didn't zap the rest of you. I'm off to hunt him down!

[007th leaves stage. Lights dim. Men move around a bit.]

Scene Three:

[Chorus is at a performance. Sings **HELLO MARY LOU**, no problem. As they finish the last song, Bb Minor sneaks into the audience. Director introduces a different quartet.]

Director: And now, here's one of our Chapter Quartets (**Bascom Avenue 4**).

[007th enters.]

[**Bascom Avenue 4** sings 1st song. No problem.

Before second song, Bb Minor zaps them. SOUND EFFECT.

Bascom Avenue 4 starts the 2nd song but can't remember the words after 2nd or 3rd measure.]

007th: Oh, no! Looks like I'm too late. You've been zapped by the Disrememberation ray.

Quartet Member: Who are you?

007th: Pond. Flames Pond.

Quartet Member: Well, Pond Flames Pond, how could this happen.

007th: No. It's Pond. Flames Pond. Never mind. It's that dastardly evil villain, Bb Minor.

Quartet Member: You mean the agent of ACHIW?

007th: Bless you.

Quartet Member: What?

007th: You sneezed.

[Bb Minor comes up to 007th.]

Bb Minor: Mr. Pond! you the top agent for Chord Ringer, the Barbershop Singing Security Agency. No?

007th: Why yes. I am. Do I know you? You look familiar?

Bb Minor: Hmmm. I heard you mention Bb Minor. Do you think you can catch him?

007th: I know I can. If I could only find him!

Bb Minor: Hmmm. [He walks off the stage.]

007th: I must know if he's attacked your chorus. Please, sing another song.

[Chorus sings **THERE'LL BE NO NEW TUNES ON THIS OLD PIANO.** No problem.]

007th: Whew! He must have been scared off. Carry on!

[007th leaves the stage.]

Scene Four

[Café setting. 3 small tables. 007th at one with coffee cup. Cloth napkins on the table. People seated at others.]

Bb Minor approaches 007th.]

Bb Minor: May I join you?

007th: Why, yes. Please do. Didn't I see you last night at the barbershop performance?

Bb Minor: Yesss. Yes you did.

007th: You must be a fan of barbershop singing.

Bb Minor: You could say that.

007th: I must find that despicable evil agent, Bb Minor. He's disrupting great singing all over the world!

Bb Minor: Hmmm. They say he's now working with ACHIW.

007th: Bless you.

Bb Minor: Pardon me?

007th: I said Bless you.

Bb Minor: What?

007th: You sneezed.

Bb Minor: I did not.

[At that moment the café host announces the entertainment: a barbershop quartet.]

Café Owner: Ladies and Gentlemen, we're pleased to introduce our entertainment for the evening: **Generations Apart**

Generations Apart sings one song. No problem. Everyone applauds.

As quartet prepares for second song, Bb Minor reaches behind 007th with his Disrememberation controller and zaps them. SOUND EFFECT.

Generations Apart starts to sing but forget the words after 2 or 3 measures.]

007th: [In shock] Oh no! You've just been zapped by the Disrememberation ray. Bb Minor must be close by.

Bb Minor: Hmmm. Seems you have things to do, Mr. Pond. I must be off myself. There is much to do.

[Bb Minor walks off stage. 007th looks all around but can't locate his culprit.]

007th: Curse you, Bb Minor. [007th storms off the stage.]

Scene Five:

[Chorus in travel uniform. On risers.

Bb Minor comes in and sits in front row.

007th comes in from other side. Stands and watches the crowd.]

Director: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure to be here at this beautiful venue to perform for you. The Peninsulaires are excited and happy to bring you this concert.

[Chorus sings **COUNTRY ROADS**]

Director: Thank you. Our next number is one of our favorites. We hope you like it.

[Bb Minor stands and prepares his zap device. As he's about to push the button, he sneezes and zaps himself. SOUND EFFECT. 007th sees the commotion and approaches.]

007th: Are you alright?

Bb Minor: [Begins to speak but stumbles on 3rd word] Yes, I uh, uh...]

007th: Say, what's that in your hand? [Pointing at the controller]

Bb Minor: Just my uhmm, uhmm [stumbling on the word].

007th: Ha, Ha! I know you! You're Bb Minor! Evil agent of ACHIW!

Chorus: Bless you.

007th: What?

Director: You sneezed.

007th: Never mind. I've got you now Bb Minor. Barbershop singing is once again safe. Mr. Director, carry on.

Director: Thank you, Mr. Pond. You **are** the greatest secret agent in the world!

[Chorus sings "**SECRET AGENT MAN.**" As they do, 007th does a variety of James Bond -like poses. Or we have a video of 007th doing agent-like things.]

007th: Yes. That's true. Well, carry on, Mr. Director. And you...you're coming with me!

Bb Minor: Curses! Foiled again!

[As 007th walks off stage with Bb Minor.]

Chorus does final number **ON A WONDERFUL DAY LIKE TODAY.**]

[Close Curtain]

After Intermission and our guest performers, the chorus returns to sing:

BLUE VELVET

A WINK AND A SMILE

SOMETHING

DRIVIN' ME CRAZY