



Inside this  
issue:

So I sez to myself...	2
Schedule	3
About West Towns	4



## “M’m! M’m! Good!”

Mm, Mm Good? What does this have to do with anything? Maybe it’s all the ‘Ms’.

- Minimize Mouth Movement—the only way to execute this song (“Step in Time”)

- Melodious Movement—keep it moving, flowing but with a sense of urgency

- Merry Moments—make sure the audience gets the punch line

Actually, the coaching session wasn’t just good, it was **GrrRRREAT!** Was it hard work? You bet. Were my feet tired at the end? Absolutely! But it was a great rehearsal and we made a lot of progress and we were singing

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Early Rehearsal & George Gipp

This week we will again have Stage Presence review starting at 7:00 pm. We will be doing our full package for the “WTC Opener” and “Gonna Live Til I Die” at the District Convention

on April 18th. If you can't make the earlier start, please be courteous to those on the risers when entering the rehearsal hall -- be quiet and wait un-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Peoria Schedule—April 18

We will be singing as outgoing Champion immediately after the last chorus has finished singing in the afternoon. We will have a warm up time of 11:00 AM SHARP, dressed and ready to go in our new uniforms.

Songs will be:

1. “*West Towns Opener*” (Jack Roller voice-over/intro)
2. “*They Wrote ‘Em In The Good Old Days*” (George Zima Tap Routine)
- Short introduction to next song
3. “*I’ll Walk With God*”
- Thanks to District either by Darryl or Joe K.
4. “*I’m Gonna Live Till I Die*”

the Marquette room. Then we can go to the quartet finals and cheer on our quartets and relax and enjoy the “Show of Champions” as part of the audience.

So far, these are West Towns members competing in the quartet contest.

### Vocal Menu

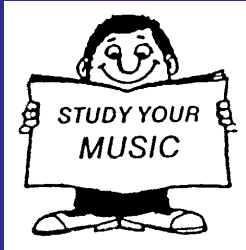
- Jim Spangler—tenor
- Casey Clements—lead
- Andy Kinne—bass
- Jay Bentz—baritone

### Sound Investment

- Dave Ehst—tenor
- Tony Caruso—lead
- Don Kaap—bass
- John Morrison—baritone



After the contest, about 3:00 PM, we will have a pizza party with Bloomington in



## Rehearsals—continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

til asked before you step on the risers.

**George Gipp** is going to be with us Monday to help get us up to speed with the choreography/

entertainment plan. Be ready for another exciting rehearsal.

Listen to your learning tracks and memorize, memorize, memorize.



## So I sez to myself...

*from Jack Dichter, Naples, Fla Chapter  
(Shop Notes, Joe Gerebenics, editor)*

Call it eavesdropping, call it being nosey or just being there when it occurred. I happened to hear this conversation the other day. The voice was familiar. Then I realized, it was me talking to me! Listen in, as I share with you what I "overheard."

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So you love barbershop music and you want to sing well?

Maybe you should have listened to your father when you were young. You remember - that was when he

urged you to take up an instrument and learn to read music. Maybe now you wouldn't have to rely on others to read your music and make tapes from which you can learn.

As it is now, you get music that you can't read, and you are supposed to learn the words and music. OK, so you can read the words, but getting the music and words to go together as they are on that sheet isn't working.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## M'm! M'm! Good - Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

extremely well. Mark Betzynski had us "hissing and fizzing like snakes"... as part teaching us some good breath control. Then Kevin Keller tried to get the basses "out of the mud", bring the

tenors "out", enrich the baritones, and "clarify" the Leads.

There were some changes made to so you'll need to pay attention on Monday night. If you couldn't make it, you'll have a lot of catching up to do.



Schedule of Events

April 2009

- ◆ 13 Rehearsal
- ◆ 16 **Board Meeting**
- ◆ 18 **Sing in Peoria**—full chorus
- ◆ 20 Rehearsal
- ◆ 27 Rehearsal

May 2009

- ◆ 4 Recording Session
- ◆ 9 Cabaret – American Legion Hall, Downers Grove.
- ◆ 11 Rehearsal
- ◆ 18 Rehearsal
- ◆ 25 Rehearsal
- ◆ 29-30 Retreat with Kevin Keller

June 2009

- ◆ 1 Rehearsal
- ◆ 8 Rehearsal
- ◆ 15 Rehearsal
- ◆ 22 Rehearsal
- ◆ 26, 27, 28 DG Heritage Fest **Root Beer Float Booth**
- ◆ 29 Rehearsal

# April 2009

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	<u>18</u>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



July 2009

- ◆ June 28 – July 5—International (Anaheim)

August 2009

- ◆ Kane County Cougars

September 2009

- ◆ 25–27 Fall Convention (compete to qualify for International 2010—Philadelphia)

December 2009

- ◆ 10 7:30 PM Tech Rehearsal (Thu)
- ◆ 11 8:00 PM Christmas Show (Fri)
- ◆ 12 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM Christmas show
- ◆ **13 Sunday 1:30 PM Christmas Show**

2010

- ◆ June 27 – July 4 – International (Philadelphia)

## May 2009

S	M	T	W	T	Fr	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## June 2009

S	M	Tu	W	T	Fr	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



# The West Towns Chorus

**PO Box 1005  
Downers Grove, IL 60515**

West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:30 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Moose Lodge, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: **630-201-5544**

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**2008 ILLINOIS DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!**

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The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter aka The West Towns Chorus



## **2009 Board**

President:	Darryl Nordentoft
Executive VP:	Jack Fagan
Music VP:	Craig Lancaster
Program VP:	Joe Tomecek
Membership & Development VPs:	Bruce Rhoades John Morrison
Public Relations VP:	Jon Dobosenski
Treasurer:	Tony Tumea
Secretary:	Bob Nicodem
Members At-Large:	Mark Johnson, Jon Sutherland

Email: [board@westtowns.org](mailto:board@westtowns.org)

## **So I sez to myself...**

*(Continued from page 2)*

Now there you are, struggling to get the words and music the best you can. Somewhere along there, you figure out that you did it wrong. Now you have to unlearn what you did wrong and learn it right this time, hopefully. The difficulty has just doubled.

Maybe what you ought to do is to use one of those small hand-held tape recorders. Then stick it in the face of someone that you feel knows the words and music. Of course, you may select the wrong person and learn the song incorrectly again. Now you have to unlearn (again) and re-learn (again.)

Sometimes, I just think that the chorus powers-that-be want people like us to struggle so that we

appreciate it more when we do get it. If they wanted to make it easier for us to learn and correct our mistakes, I have to believe that they would have learning tapes, and maybe check out how each of us is singing from time to time.

What's that?

There are learning tapes? They have offered to see how we are doing on the songs? Should we take advantage of them? Naw, that's too easy. Maybe we ought to just keep on learning, and unlearning, and learning, and unlearning, and learning, and ...

*-- as the article appeared in Dundalk's Charivari, Tom Wheatley, editor*

