

Hospitality Room



Gentlemen (and Ladies)

It has been a while since the West Towns Chorus had an actual Hospitality Suite on one of the upper floors of the Pere Marquette Hotel. So we have decided to give that a shot and see how it works out. This will be a perfect opportunity to show everyone that we will be representing the Illinois District in a positive manner in Philadelphia and get that celebration off to a rousing start.

Ed McDevitt and I will be staying up there and will try to be around as much as possible, but certainly someone should be there both Friday night and Saturday night after the contest (depending up on whether or not there is a President's reception on Friday night). But, either way someone should be around, and we will try and have ample supplies of food and drink.

Here's where you come in, I thought that a great way to sell the new West Towns Chorus cookbooks would be for us to have some samples of the various dishes available up in the suite. We could also have the books there available to sell to the people that come in. Anyone willing to make one of their own creations, or someone else's creation would be greatly appreciated. I have no idea of the accommodations in the room. I am guessing that there will be a microwave. But you would need to have the dish either already prepared, and provide the necessary serving trays and

implements. If we have a microwave, we will be able to heat it up, but if it needs to stay hot, you will need to provide whatever is necessary. I will try and bring some extension chords and power strips, but we could also use your help in this area, too.

We will have plates, bowls and plastic silverware, etc. and we will have some large bowls for chips etc. We will have coolers and ice and enough beer and soda to get us started, but if you would like to make a contribution to the cause by bringing something, it will gladly be accepted. Donations will gladly be accepted, also.

We will also need to provide refreshments for the quartets that come through, as well as singers looking to listen and have a good time. Again, I am not sure what accommodations we will have as far as seating and such, but all chorus members and families and guests are welcome to come up and listen to whatever quartets stop by and sing during the evening.

Anything you are willing to contribute will gladly be accepted, and we are looking forward to having a good time and socializing not only with our own chapter, but with the other chapter's members and quartets from the district.

Let's make this a great weekend, together!!

Thanks,
Craig Lancaster
VP Music and Performance

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October 10th Christmas Blitz

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Music Blitz on Saturday, October 10th from 9 to 1pm at the Moose hall. Our regular Monday rehearsals immediately following the Peoria contest will be focused on preparing for the October 19th performance. Therefore we need a special rehearsal to kick off the Christmas season. This rehearsal will focus on all the music we are targeting for the 2009 Christmas Show, including one new combined number. Please plan on being present for the full four hours as there is a lot of music to cover.

Thanks, Joe T.



Cookbooks

COOKBOOKS continue to be available and for sale. There will not be a representative from POW! at each Monday rehearsal in September so would ask that if you would like to purchase one or many, please call or e-mail Linda Carey and she will get your order to practice for pick-up and payment. She can be reached at 708-352-6383 or webbco916@sbcglobal.net. A sincere note of thanks and appreciation to all those who have purchased a cookbook in support of the chorus.

Thanks so much,
Linda Carey



Homework

Homework Assignment #3: Most of you saw the Ambassadors of Harmony gold medal performance from Anaheim at rehearsal back in July. If not, you can see the [76 Trombones Performance on YouTube](#).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmDGntpZC3I> This performance was given the highest scores ever in barbershop competition. On a scale of 1 to 100, this AOH set is 100. Now listen to our set and assess what you honestly think we would score in comparison. Next, and most importantly, write down what we could do to instantly add ten points to that score. Ask yourself, "What are they doing that we aren't?" "How do they keep the energy building throughout the entire song?" "What gives them such an unquestionably clean and precise sound?" Finally, decide what YOU, personally, are going to do between now and Monday night to raise the performance by ten points or more.

In order to blow away the competition, our attitude must be that last week's score of 80 is this week's score of 70. We must continually raise the bar.

Be ready to share your observations at the beginning of rehearsal next Monday. Or, if you feel like posting your **INSIGHTFUL** comments to the WTCList, please do so **IN A POSITIVE MANNER**. We will also be looking at the videos made last week. Some of you will be very surprised.

Joe T.

Schedule of Events

September 2009

- ◆ 14 Rehearsal
 - ◆ 17 Board Meeting
 - ◆ 21 Rehearsal
 - ◆ 25 -27 District **Fall Contest**
 - ◆ **26 – 11 AM–Noon** (tentative time for rehearsal)
5 PM–tentative—dress/prep for contest
- (the above times may be adjusted slightly once the district announces the contest schedule.)

- ◆ 28 Rehearsal

October 2009

- ◆ 5 Rehearsal
- ◆ **10 Sat: 9–1 Christmas Blitz**
- ◆ 12 Rehearsal
- ◆ 15 Board meeting
- ◆ **19 Performance—Monarch Landing—Naperville**
- ◆ 26 Rehearsal

SEPTEMBER 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		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			

Only 2 Mondays until Contest!

November 2009

- ◆ 2 Rehearsal
- ◆ 9 Rehearsal
- ◆ **15 (Sun) 1:00 PM** Downers Grove Library
- ◆ 16 Rehearsal
- ◆ 19 Board meeting
- ◆ 23 Rehearsal
- ◆ 30 Rehearsal

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
- ◆ Jan 23 Sat. Installation Banquet
- ◆ Feb. 13 Sandwich Opera House
- ◆ June 27 – July 4 – International (Philadelphia)

OCTOBER 2009						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
				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

NOVEMBER 2009						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat
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					



"SOMEHOW I FEEL THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE SCORE I GAVE THEM IN STAGE PRESENCE."



PO Box 1005
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West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:00 PM on the 2nd floor of the Moose Lodge, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

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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

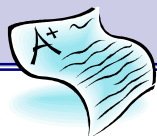


2009 Board

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Members At-Large:	Mark Johnson, Jon Sutherland

Email: board@westtowns.org

Homework—one response



Taking into account the quality of the recordings, here are my observations after listening to each song several times and having viewed the AOH performance:

AOH

- Each man OWNED the song as his. It wasn't just a song someone else picked out. It was their personal choice. They believed in the song.
- Precision...ABSOLUTE. Which required being glued to the director's cues.
- Unyielding energy to the last chord. They knew the music like it was their own skin.

West Towns: Feed The Birds

- Overall, I thought the sound and blend were pretty good, as was the energy...however
- I didn't sense we were individually putting much feeling into the song (see OWNED, above)
- We are not consistently precise, not all coming in or cutting off together in some spots. Need to watch Joe. If we don't understand his direction, then ask what it is he wants us to do.
- I had the feeling we were being (somewhat) pushed through the song rather than us moving it

forward. OWNERSHIP.

- Dynamics in the tag were pretty good, but not that much variation up to then. Tuning seemed pretty good up to the tag, then something didn't quite sound right as we softened the sound. I think we didn't quite get on top of our notes.

Step in Time (The recording didn't seem as clear as that for Birds, so I'm not entirely sure of what I was hearing.)

- The start sounded terrible (recording??), not in tune, not balanced. After about 3 or 4 measures it seemed to come together
- We are not singing smooth (horizontal), but more vertical (“barberchoppy”) for much of the song.
- I didn't sense that we were excited, having fun with the judges and ourselves.
- It felt rushed. [The term "Morse code" pops into my brain (strange, I know).] Not sure why. I did notice that we don't always give the word "time" its full value...and that word pops up a lot.

I was surprised because I thought we were singing it a lot better than what I heard.

Tom Erwin