



Rehearsal Notes—Jon Hoekema

Here are the notes from January 25, 2010.

- Faces – activate faces to communicate the song (Also helps with pitch)

Breath support,

Breath support,

Breath support

- Basses – when you have the melody, own it

“Don’t fumble the melody line like Adrian Peterson”

- When we sing low and soft notes, we must have more energy than when we sing higher and louder.

Use energy and intensity.

- When we are singing, sing connected and smooth. Don’t stop the

sound.

- In Feed the Birds, remember when we sing “All around the Cathedral” the tempo picks up.

Basses – when you are holding the last note of Sweetheart, stay involved, keep the pitch up. Don’t just mail it in.

Leads – we were having pitch problems on the pick-ups of phrases. Take good breaths; lift the cheeks to keep the pitch high.

If you missed the last rehearsal, you will be behind on Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.

Next week will be the last time we’ll be allowed to use music. We’ll be working the whole song.

The week after that (Feb. 8, 2010) we will not have any music on the risers.

Inside this issue:

Sandwich Performance 2

Map to Sandwich 3

Board Notes 4

Schedule 5

Member Message 6



LiveWire

Harmony University...

August 1-8, 2010 - St. Joseph, MO

The PREMIER event for barbershop music education

Be sure to visit the [Harmony University page!](http://www.barbershop.org/harmony-university-main.html) <http://www.barbershop.org/harmony-university-main.html>

NOW ONLINE!!! 2010 Course Guide which includes class descriptions, information about Missouri Western State University, schedule information, and faculty information.

Just about everything you need to know about HU 2010 is online now, such as:

- Specific information on each college:
 - o Harmony College
 - o Quartet College
 - o Music Educator Tract
 - o Directors College

o Next Generation

- Registration Deadlines - **March 15th**, Registration prices increase

Scholarship information - visit the scholarship page

o Class Selection forms - browse courses that will be available

o eXtreme quartetting

o ...MUCH, MUCH MORE

o For any additional information regarding Harmony University, email HarmonyU@barbershop.org.

[See page 6 to learn how to get LiveWire]



Sandwich Opera Performance—Jim Ahlgrim



I would like to stress the importance of a full complement of singers for the Sandwich Opera House performance. This show will be almost identical to the Monarch Landing performance. The chorus will be expected to perform for 45 minutes to one hour, after which, the two quartets will each sing for about 20 minutes. The chorus will return for the finale.

This show is part of the Sandwich concert series for local residents and surrounding communities. Please keep in mind that the material we sing is not the easiest music and would prove to be very difficult for anything less than the full chorus to perform. Uniform will be the black tuxedo, most likely with the long white tie and white pocket square.

The cost of tickets for family and friends for this event: Regular=\$18.00, Seniors 65 and over=\$15 and students=\$12.00. Tickets will be available at the door, but can be ordered over the phone by calling 815-786-2555, Monday to Friday, 8am to noon and 1pm to 4:30pm with a credit card.

MapQuest Directions from Moose Hall in Downers Grove to Sandwich Opera House, 140 E. Railroad St. Sandwich, IL 60548 Estimated time is one hour	
Start out going NORTH on MAIN ST toward ROGERS ST.	.9 mi
Turn LEFT onto OGDEN AVE/US-34/W OGDEN AVE. Continue to follow OGDEN AVE/US-34 W.	2.3 mi
Take the I-355 N ramp toward I-88 W/AURORA/NORTHWEST SUBURBS	.1 mi
Merge onto I-88 W/RONALD REAGAN MEMORIAL TOLLWAY toward AURORA (Portions toll).	17.6 mi
Take IL-56 W toward US-30/SUGAR GROVE/IL-47.	4.2 mi
Stay STRAIGHT to go onto US-30 W.	2.4 mi
Turn LEFT onto DUGAN RD.	.1 mi
Turn RIGHT onto GRANART RD.	5.6 mi
Turn RIGHT onto CR-9/GALENA RD.	1.7 mi
CR-9/GALENA RD becomes CHICAGO RD.	.5 mi
Turn LEFT onto E SANDWICH RD	3.6 mi
E SANDWICH RD becomes N LATHAM ST.	1.0 MI
Turn RIGHT onto E RAILROAD St.	.4 mi
140 E RAILROAD ST is on the LEFT	



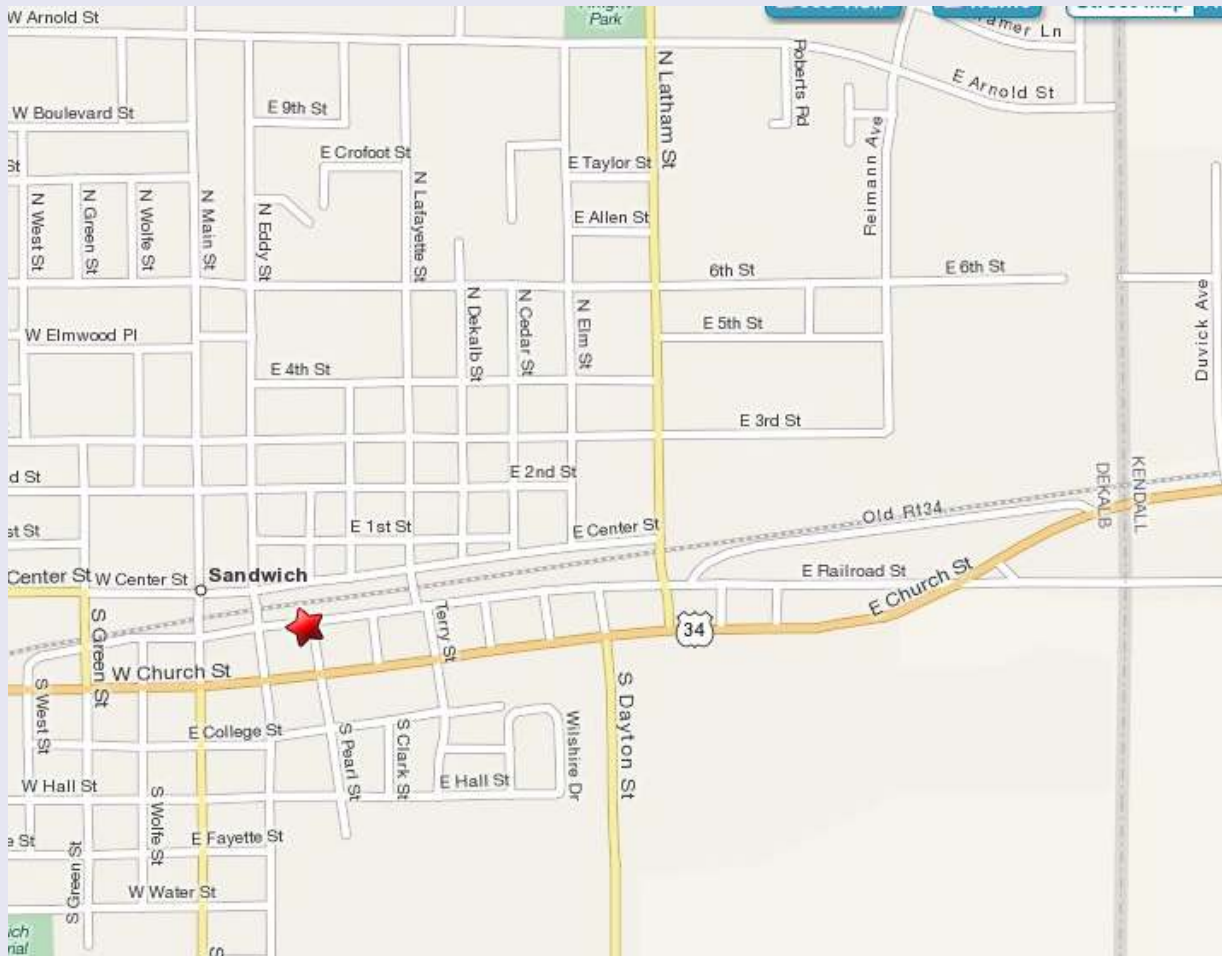
Sandwich is located at the southern edge of DeKalb County on U.S. Route 34 (Ogden Avenue). From Chicago and western suburbs travel west on I-88 (E-W tollway) and exit to Sugar Grove and Route 47 after passing west through the Aurora toll booth. Turn south onto Route 47 to Route 34. From that intersection in Yorkville drive west to Sandwich. The Opera House is visible 1/2 block north of Route 34 at Pearl Street near downtown [Sandwich](#).

Analysis of the cranial structure of the



BARBERSHOP BASS

Sandwich Opera House



Pitch
Keeping everyone in tune with West Towns



Jan 21 was the first meeting of the 2010 board meeting and was very productive. Here is a summary from that meeting.

Treasurer's report: Tony Tumea gave us a very detailed report on our financial activity in 2009 before officially turning over the reins to our new treasurer, Jim Williams. We are in a better cash position than we were last year at this time; our cash position and deposits to the endowment fund increased by \$12,180. Of that amount, \$4,850 was the net increase in our revenue from the Christmas show due to the fourth show, and \$4,600 from two gaming nights.

- Risers are getting worn and some have needed repairs. Will start budgeting for replacements.
- Trailer is old and will need replacement so will start budgeting for that also.

Goals: The board approved the following goals for 2010:

- Increase membership by enrolling 35 new members
- Promote quartet development by offering monthly coaching sessions
- Improve singing of chorus members by including craft instruction at weekly rehearsals
- 85/ 85 – Eighty-five chorus members consistently singing at an 85 score level
- Support the attendance of three chorus members to Harmony University
- Support the attendance of one assistant director to Director's College at Harmony University
- Schedule four gaming nights to supplement operating budget
- Increase ticket sales to Christmas shows by 300 tickets
- Obtain \$2,500 in grants support for chorus activity
- Hire a new chorus director by May 1, 2010
- Qualify for 2011 Kansas City chorus competition at Fall 2010 district contest
- Reactivate VLQ and schedule four VLQ chorus performances
- Add six new songs to the chorus repertoire
- Organize Cabaret night for the Spring of 2010
- Host four guest nights—January, April, July, October

IDAH: Approved paying \$250 toward one quartet's IDAH tuition

Learning Tools: Approved the purchase of four video recording devices for rehearsals and performances to be used as training tools.

Group Email: Decided that once a member is no longer attending and dues are six months or more past due, they will be removed from the WTCList.

Director Search: The board approved the following director search committee:

Don Davia—Chair of committee
 Ed McDevitt
 Craig Lancaster
 John Hoekema
 Darryl Nordentoft
 Mark Johnson
 Ken Keever
 Jack Fagan (ex officio)

Singing Valentines: Decided that we will not do singing valentines as a chapter for two main reasons:

1. No one stepped up to take charge of this event
 2. Valentine's Day falls on Sunday and we have a full chorus performance on the Saturday evening before.
- We will refer any requests to chapter quartets
 - Requested that someone step up now to begin plans for Singing Valentines for 2011.

Chorus Phone: Darryl Nordentoft volunteered to take the chorus phone for a period of time.

Casino gaming: Secured the following dates for 2010: Thu. July 8; Wed. Aug 18; Thu. Sept. 16; and Thu. Oct 14.

Schedule of Events

February 2010

- ◆ 1 Rehearsal
- ◆ 8 Rehearsal
- ◆ 13 Saturday—Sandwich Opera-House **Call time: 6:45 PM**
- ◆ 15 Rehearsal
- ◆ 18 Board meeting
- ◆ 22 Rehearsal

March 2010

- ◆ 1 Rehearsal
- ◆ 8 Rehearsal
- ◆ 13 IDAH—Bloomington, IL
- ◆ 13 Sat. evening performance at St. James Church, Glen Ellyn
- ◆ 15 Rehearsal
- ◆ 18 Board meeting
- ◆ 22 Rehearsal
- ◆ 29 Rehearsal

February 2010

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						

2010

- ◆ Apr. 16—18 Illinois Spring Convention
- ◆ Apr. 24—Cabaret
- ◆ June 27 - July 4 - International (Philadelphia)
- ◆ July 8—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Aug. 5 Cougar outing
- ◆ Aug. 18—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Sep. 16—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Sep. 24—26 Illinois Fall Convention
- ◆ Oct. 14—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Oct. 18—Monday Full Chorus Performance—Monarch Landing
- ◆ Dec 10, 11 & 12 —Christmas show

March 2010

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	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			

April 2010

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	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	

The West Towns Chorus

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

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

Phone: **630-201-5544**

www.westtowns.org

PITCH Editor:

Bob Nicodem
18W109 Claremont Dr
Darien, IL 60561



email: RNicodem@comcast.net

Work: (708) 735-8164 Cell: (708) 337-3895

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

2010 Board

President:	Jack Fagan
Music VP:	Ed McDevitt
Program VP:	Joe Tomecek
Chapter Development VP:	Jay Bentz
Marketing VP:	Tony Tumea
Treasurer:	Jim Williams
Secretary:	Bob Nicodem
Members At-Large:	Mark Johnson
Immed. Past President	Darryl Nordentoft
Email: board@westtowns.org	

Member Message

Dave Walker received the following email from Bob Vokal, one of our members who has moved to the Bloomington , IL area.

“Hey man! I’m doing very well. Living in Bloomington, IL, very near to where my girlfriend lives. Still looking for work at the moment–isn’t life grand?–but having a good time living on my own and doing for myself.

*I miss everyone at West Towns very much, please let 'em all know! I wish I could've made it back for the Christmas show, but things got crazy busy here that same weekend. I am singing with the Bloomington chorus, though, so at least I'm doing my part in continuing to keep the whole world singing. *smile*.*

Take care, ... [just to let you know,] internet and proper computer function is sketchy lately.

Have a good one! God bless.”

Bob Vokal

It’s good to hear from you Bob.

Barbershopping is not a Spectator Sport.

Be a Part of it!

- Be at all rehearsals
- Learn your music
- Participate in rehearsal activities
- Bring a guest
- Volunteer to help your chapter
- Form a quartet (formal or informal)



To subscribe to the Barbershop Harmony Society’s weekly online newsletter, LiveWire, e-mail live-wire@barbershop.org with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.