



## 2011 Barbershopper of the Year: Mark Johnson

### ♪ Program Notes ♪

Gentlemen,  
It was a good rehearsal last Monday, spending time on the risers as well as learning from the chairs was very productive.

Remember to practice the songs listed for the Spring Show that Jon Hoekema

sent to you. We will be starting with "Till There Was You" on Monday. Let's come prepared and aware of what we have already learned to do our best singing!

Bill Stob, Program VP



### Director's Chair

Gentlemen of West Towns

During rehearsal a couple of weeks ago, I addressed the group as to the new selections we have for the Spring Show and this summer's World Choir Games. In my two years as your director, I have enjoyed conversations with many of you regarding new music and many of you have shared your ideas with me. Perhaps you don't know it, but we have actually already programmed some of these suggestions, including the much-discussed "Joy to the World," which showed everyone that we are not yet at that level. Programming new music is an important part of our

growth, and I am proud that in my 1.5 years as director, we have stressed that aspect of learning. Of course, we also often go back to older repertoire and apply our new singing talents to improve them.

I understand there has been some back and forth discussion among members about the new music set in place for the spring show. Let me repeat some comments I made to the group a couple of weeks ago regarding these selections so that anyone not in attendance can better understand the reasoning behind the decision. At the beginning of the year I introduced four pieces to the group, three of which we

#### Special points of interest:

- Perry Knutson
- Bill Worst
- New performances
  - Chicago Rush
  - Kane County Cougars



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## Director's Chair continued

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have decided to place on the Spring Show. "The Lord Is My Light" was a strong suggestion of one of our members (incidentally NOT on the Music Team), and I remember this selection being a particular favorite of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club when I was a member. It was a piece already on my radar, and I was very glad to promote it for our show. With the success of "Gaudeamus Igitur" from last spring's "Student Prince" set, I thought immediately of "Chorus of the Returning Pilgrims," another favorite from my Glee Club days. Like "Gaudeamus," it promotes brotherhood, and I thought it would be a wonderful addition to our rep-

ertoire, even utilizing it for entrances and exits as we've done with Gaudeamus. In both cases, these songs contain many of the harmonies that make barbershop so much fun to sing. "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" is barbershop arrangement of a well-known tune from the musical "South Pacific," and seemed a good fit with other music already in our repertoire, and one that enables us to put a Broadway group together.

I hope you will all see the reasons for adding new and varied music to our repertoire. This is actually a practice already employed by many of the best barbershop choruses in America, a standard that we strive for. Hope that helps. "Keep the Whole World Singing!"  
See you all on Monday!  
Bruce



## West Towns Family

To all,  
Perry's (Knutson) still at Hines. He's struggling to breathe and is fighting infections.

I am requesting Valentines to lift his spirits. Please send to:

Hines VA Hospital  
Building 128, Room C110  
5000 S 5th Ave  
Hines, IL 69141

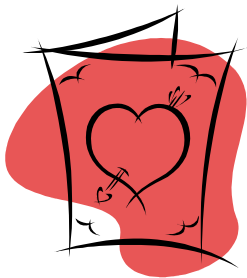
Thanks, Sue

Bill Worst

According to Ron Heilig, Bill will be undergoing open heart surgery on Wednesday. At this point we don't know where, but please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.



"In both cases, these songs contain many of the harmonies that make barbershop so much fun to sing. "



## Spring Show Songs—Jon Hoekema

Here are the songs that we will be singing on the April 15 Spring Show at Wentz Hall.

The order is yet to be finalized. When I know the order of the songs and the show, I will let you all know. That will probably be in a few weeks.

- *Almost like Being in Love*
- *Chorus of the Returning Pilgrims*
- *Fit as a Fiddle/For Me and My Gal*

- *Gaudeamus Igitur*
- *In My Room*
- *Irish Blessing*
- *Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love*
- *Longest Time*
- *Lost in the Stars*
- *Nothing Like a Dame*
- *Precious Lord*
- *Sweetheart of Sigma Chi*
- *The Lord is My Light*
- *Till There Was You*
- *Twilight Time*
- *Witchcraft* ♦



## Singing is Such a Rush—Jay Elliott

On **Saturday June 16, 2012** West Towns has been invited to sing the National Anthem to “kickoff” the Chicago Rush Arena Football game. As much fun as we have singing, we also have an opportunity to see the Rush do their thing! Any chorus member who signs up to sing may also watch the game for \$2 (this covers the ticket processing fee).

The chapter board has opted to make this event a fundraiser for the chorus. The Chicago Rush organization has a program where any ticket we sell as a chorus, for that game day, will result in a donation to Chicagoland West Suburban

Chapter (that’s our legal name). All we have to do is select where the seats will be to determine the ticket price and subsequent donation amount. We will take a moment during our business meeting on Monday night to poll the membership on their preference; here are the options (we will pick **one**):

- Lower Level Sidelines – Ticket price: **\$30** (donation to chapter: \$10)
- Mid Upper Level Sidelines (or possibly Lower Level End-zones) – Ticket price: **\$21** ticket (donation to chapter \$6) back to your group.
- End Upper Level Sidelines –

“West Towns has been invited to sing the National Anthem to kick off the Chicago Rush football game.”

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## Singing Is Such a Rush continued

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Ticket price: **\$18**

(donation to chapter) \$4

They wish us to have all ticket orders final one month before the game (so they can reserve a block of seats for us) which means all ticket orders will be due to **Jay Elliott by Monday, May 14, 2012.**

Call time will be 5pm, game time is 7pm. More details will follow, but get this on your calendars and get it on your friend's and family's calendars! This is a great opportunity to socialize, to involve our friends and families in our hobby **and** a good way to raise additional funds to help offset our World Choir Games 2012 expenses.



## DuPage Community Foundation

Our Marketing VP submitted the following, written by **Don Davia**, for the DuPage Community Foundation newsletter due out this month.

The West Towns Chorus has been singing in DuPage County since 1948 with a history of being recognized for its excellence in musical performance. We are a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the uniquely American, four-part harmony style of singing known as Barbershop. Wishing to share this musical heritage, we have selected a service project to encourage a capella singing among youth in the schools; working with local high school choir directors and scheduling musical day camps to give today's youth the chance to experience the thrill of really good barbershop harmony.

As any other organization, we

wish to secure our financial future, so ten years ago we established the West Towns Endowment fund. As time went on we were finding it harder to have our volunteer members care for our funds. In addition, with the current difficulties in our economy, we are in need of finding places to perform and audiences to come to our concerts. With the DCF we have found an organization which can help our non-for-profit endowment fund remain financially healthy and at the same time help us with advice on how to remain in contact with our community. The DCF makes us aware of other organizations in the community who we might work with to achieve common goals. We are also finding that the DCF provides us with opportunities to participate in community meetings to help solve the common problems shared by the Arts community throughout our County. ◆

“The DCF makes us aware of other organizations in the community with whom we might work to achieve common goals “



## February 2012

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			

## February 2012

- 6 Rehearsal
- 13 Rehearsal
- 20 Rehearsal
- 27 Rehearsal with Cindy Hansen

## 2012

- Mar. 2—IDAH
- **Mar. 10—St. James the Apostle**
- Mar. 30—Apr 1 District Spring Convention
- **Apr. 15, 5:00 PM—Spring Show, Wentz Hall**
- **June 16—Sing Chicago Rush game**
- July 10—14 World Choir Games?
- August 7—Kane County Cougars
- Sep 28 -30 District Fall Contest

## March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>10</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## April 2012

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					

We have confirmed a date to sing at the Kane County Cougars game.

We will be singing the National Anthem on Tuesday, August 7 for a 6:30 game.

**Don Davia** ordered 60 tickets for members and their families, but we can add more tickets if we need them. ♦



**PITCH Editor** Bob Nicodem

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Members only:  
<http://WestTowns.Groupanizer.com>

# Happy Birthday

Trenton Ferro Wednesday 2/8  
Ken Franklin Friday 2/10

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

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## Welcome Guest of Jan. 29

Arlan Henderson

