



Celebration after contest 2007!

Welcome to the first LEAD Newsletter! I hope you find these newsletters interesting and helpful, and by all means if you'd like to contribute or see something specifically, just let me know!

Your LEAD team:

Section Leaders:

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Assistant Section Leader:

Susan Doi, H: (519) 745-9033

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Assistant Tape Testing Helpers:

Linda Gulati, Peggy Senior and Helen May

Welcome New LEAD Member:

Welcome to **Christine Heipel** who passed her audition on October 16/07. Christine is a former GH member who sang bass and we're happy to have her back and singing LEAD!

Leave of Absence(s):

Lynn Parsons continues her LOA.

Testing Team:

Taping and passing all repertoire songs (min. notes & words) is a requirement of every GH member in

order to perform (any and all performances!). Ruth is kept up-to-date by the SL's, but would like everyone to take ownership and make it **your personal responsibility** to ensure you are taping the songs. Please take every opportunity to tape and don't make Ruth and/or your SL chase you!

The current testing chart is shown below and will be rotated from time to time. An updated 'tested' list will also be circulated from time to time.

Tester	Lead Member
Diana C	Clark, Sherry
Diana C	Gulati, Linda
Diana C	May, Helen
Diana C	Stoltz, Jane
Helen M	Billson, Tina
Helen M	Hall, Marilynn
Helen M	Parsons, Lynn
Helen M	Thompson, Lisa
Linda G	Cunningham, Colleen
Linda G	Doi, Susan
Linda G	Hunsberger, Shirley
Linda G	Rolt, Betty
Lisa T	Brown, Jane
Lisa T	Davis, Helen
Lisa T	DeWitt, Jan
Lisa T	Senior, Peggy
Peggy S	Ceccato, Diana
Peggy S	Euler, Joanne
Peggy S	Heinmiller, Carolyn
Peggy S	Warner, Tammy
Susan D	Conway, Margot
Susan D	Heipel, Christine
Susan D	Marchbank, Maureen
Susan D	Sutcliffe, Miriam
Susan D	Thum, Shirley

Common Terminology

Matched Vowels

- the barbershop style of harmony requires the vowels be matched, in other words each chord

should sound like one voice with four different parts.

- vowels that are not matched cause the chord to sound out of tune, even if all the correct notes are being sung.
- leads have the responsibility of setting the vowel sound
- when vowels are properly matched the barbershop chord will ring, ie. audible overtones will be produced.
- vowels are matched through changing placement within the mouth, ie. through lip formation, tongue placement and a raised palate.
- the five basic vowels are: ah, as in father' eh as in pet; ee as in feel; oh as in no; oo as in fool.
- the first three vowels (ah, eh, ee) are tongue vowels, where the shape of the lips does not change much because the tongue is moving to create sound.
- the last two vowels (oh, oo) are lip vowels, where the tongue stays in relatively the same position but the lips move.

Diphthongs

- a diphthong is a combination of two vowels with the greatest stress on the first one.
- diphthongs are turned when going from the first vowel to the second vowel.
- if the diphthong is not turned, the word changes, ie. "night" sounds like "not".
- proper turning of diphthongs is critical to the success of barbershop singing.
- the most common diphthongs:
 "ah" plus "ee" = lies, wise, mine, dime, I
 "eh" plus "ee" = wait, day, pay, always
 "ah" plus "oo" = round, sound, found, our
 "oh" plus "oo" = so, forgo, to
 "eh" plus "u(r)" = hair, there
- the first vowel is the important vowel of the diphthong.
- the second vowel should be executed quickly and deliberately.
- you can never turn a diphthong too much, if done properly.

Soft Palate

- the soft palate is the membranous and muscular extension of the hard palate in the roof of the mouth.
- it serves as a partition which separates the mouth cavity from the nasal cavity.
- when you say “ah” at the doctor’s office, your soft palate is raised

Individual Taping – Self Critiquing

One of the most frightening things a singer can experience is to hear the sound of her own voice on tape. Often your first instinct is to pack it in! Have faith, we all have felt the same!

The use of tapes to help improve is an excellent tool. You are able to hear what you are, and are not doing, and fix it instantly. If you will make this a habit, you will improve your own singing dramatically. We rarely hear what others hear and what we are doing wrong until we listen to ourselves on tape. The aim of self-critiquing is to help the individual singers to help themselves.

During your weekly self-coaching session you should be aware of the following things.

Am I singing with good quality? Do I like what I hear? What can I improve?
Am I breathing correctly? In the right places?
Am I singing through phrases and making a good flow of sound?
Am I singing and sustaining target vowels, articulating diphthongs, singable and hard consonants?
Do I energize all phrase endings?
Am I singing the planned volume dynamics?
Do I hear tension in my voice?
Do I hear resonance in my voice?
Am I producing a well supported, clean sound?
Do I hear any garbled, hard, raspy or other unpleasant sounds?

If I try different things, can I produce a sound I like better or consider prettier?
Do I know my notes and words perfectly?
Am I singing in tune consistently?
Am I maintaining the tonal center? (Leads)
Am I tuning to the melody line? (Harmony Parts)
Knowing what I have been taught, what else can I do better?

To use your self taping/coaching session to your best advantage, use the following process.

1. Tape on each Tuesday night.
2. Listen to your tape as soon as you can in a quiet place so you can make notes.
3. Using a copy of the words to the song (use a fresh sheet each week), circle problem areas and make notes of the correction required.
4. Practice on your own to fix the problem (tape again at home if it will help.)
5. Tape and listen again the following Tuesday night, checking yourself against your previous weeks results.

If you do this consistently, you should be able to make cumulative and continuous improvements in your singing. If you are having problems knowing what to do, or how to fix something, ask your section leader or director for help.

Word Sheets

Word sheets for repertoire songs are available from your section leaders.

Also should you want to mark your music with what the notes are, octaves with other harmony parts and/or with P-notes, just ask your section leader!

Good Vocal Production

What makes up good elements of vocal production? (judging category description book)

- ♪ vocal skills
- ♪ good posture

- ♪ good breath support
- ♪ resonance
- ♪ vowels
- ♪ practice
- ♪ dynamics
- ♪ emotion
- ♪ freedom
- ♪ focus
- ♪ breath energy
- ♪ placement



Who Am I?

My name is Carolyn Heinmiller, I live on a farm in Palmerston with my husband Barry, we have been married 12 years. I have four sisters. We have 4 children between us and 6 grandchildren. Besides helping with the chores in the barns, raising pigs on this 140 acre farm we have a miniature donkey named Duke a dog called Sammy and lots of cats. I have been driving school bus for 9 years and just started to sell Avon. I have been singing for about 18 years. I started with a chorus from Listowel called Mapletone's and when this chorus folded I joined KW Sweet Adeline's for a few years, then a greater move to Grand Harmony. Last September (2006) I got cancer and with the love and support of my family and my Sweet Adeline family this has made some tuff choices so much easier. I just could not have made it to this happy ending without the support from Grand Harmony. I had Touch of Class singing for me at the hospital, cards and visits and the numerous phone calls from so many members. Some of my hobbies are riding motorcycle. My husband and I have travelled to Alaska, New Mexico, Newfoundland, New West Territories, British Columbia and about 10 different states. Barry and I have become District Assistant Directors of a wonderful organization called Gold wing Road Riders Association . This 2007 riding year we have travelled 25,000 KM by motorcycle. I also write Santa Claus letters to about 160 children which I have been doing since 1986. I am sure you can tell riding and singing are the biggest part of my life. The tuff stuff also gets done with a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

Yours in Harmony Carolyn