

# Attacks and Releases



Official News  
Publication  
of the  
Illinois District,  
a state of close harmony

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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<http://www.illinoisdistrict.org>

## IDAHA 2009 ! BACK WITH A BANG !

by Bob Squires  
for the IDAH Team

After an absence of a year, IDAH, the Illinois District Academy of Harmony, returned to the Barbershop scene and into the mainstream of district activities once again.

Consisting of a slightly revised format, a big move from Peoria to Bloomington and a unique venue, over 150 men were treated to 12 hours of being immersed in "Hot Barbershop."

IDAHA 2009 was held at the Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, which is the home to one of our International chorus representatives in Anaheim, the Bloomington Sound of Illinois Chorus. SOI member, Greg Gray was the on-site mastermind whose tireless efforts made the move to Bloomington seamless. Greg's team of Bloomington members provided assistance with transportation, riser hauling and the handling of all of the detail work.

Designed to be a one-day event, IDAH registrations began early on Saturday morning followed by the day's first general session of announcements, orientation and vocal warm-ups by Society music specialist, Jim De-

Busman. Two songs were taught to those assembled by the **Lunch Break** quartet, 13<sup>th</sup> place semi-finalists in Nashville last year.

**Lunch Break** was also part of an all-star team of coaches who worked with quartets and choruses during the day. They ended their tour by providing a marvelous, side-splitting performance at the eve-



Mike Isely photo

All IDAH photos,  
except those as noted,  
by Dave Martin  
To see the entire  
IDAHA 2009 photo album, go to  
<http://illinoisdistrict.smugmug.com>

ning's afterglow.

A variety of classes were made available to general students. Classes from sight singing to the care of the voice and on to vocal production and "how to have the chapter you want" kept over 40 students involved with an assortment of subjects geared to improving singing quality as well as making everyone a better chapter member. Instructors were Steve Shannon, John White, Jay Giallombardo, David Leeder and Jim DeBusman.

A record number of three choruses (Greater Rockford, Kankakee and Bureau County) were joined by a remarkable number of quartets (16) for six hours of intense coaching offered by some of the best coaches in the Midwest. A good number of quartets took advantage of an early bird opportunity, and they arrived on Friday night for an additional two hours of coaching.

Quartet and chorus coaches for the weekend were Rich Knight, Rik Johnson, Wayne Wright, Scott Wilson, Ron Rank, Mike O'Neill, Terry Ludwig, Drew Ellis, Tim Pashon, Mark Keever, Tom Woodall, Doug Smith, John Muir, Jay Giallombardo, Tim Woodall, Joe Sullivan, Shane Scott, Eddie Holt, Dave Cowin and Bob Squires. Shane Scott, Eddie Holt, Drew Ellis and Mike O'Neill are members of **Lunch Break** and are from Nashville.

Besides the three chorus, those quartets receiving coaching were **Rush Street**, our current district champs, along with **Exit 190**, **Q'd Up**, **Final Cut**, **Gateway Edition**, **Vocal Menu**, **Sound Investment**, **Upturn**, **True Blue**, **Catch-22**,



## What They Had To Say About IDAH.

"Great job. Great location. Venue and one day are perfect. Do it again!"

"All of the coaches brought us something to take home. No exceptions."

"Great event. Great value."

"Great information that we will use."

"The Coles County chapter provided \$50 per man to attend IDAH and it was worth every penny."

"IDAH quartet coaching was well worth it."

"I learned so much about my chorus." (From a director.)

"I just got caught up in how much fun we were having."

"The coaches were fantastic."

"Well done to whoever organized and staffed this event."

"This is the single best Barbershop event that I have ever attended."

"Coaches were excellent and worked very well with our chorus."

"This is the first IDAH I have attended. I will attend all future events if they are of this value."

**Casual Arrangement, Gadzooks, the Fortunates, the Martin Brothers, Vocal Point, and Luther & the J Notes.** Keep your eye on these four-somes at our upcoming spring convention and contests.

The entire IDAH event was handled masterfully by co-chairmen, Don Smit and Jeff Bowyer. When asked, they would be the first ones to tell you that IDAH is back. If you were one of the lucky ones to be in Bloomington this year, come on back again to a bigger and better event in 2010. If you had to miss IDAH this year, make plans now to set aside the first Saturday in March, 2010 for an event you and your chapter members will not want to miss. Watch for another outstanding array of classes to choose from on a variety of topics and another group of quality coaches to provide help for your chorus and your quartet in a venue that provides everything you need under one roof. We hope to see you all in Bloomington next year. ***IDAH is BACK to STAY!***



# An IDAH reflection

by Dale Fiste, Director

*Bureau County Covered Bridge Chorus*

I don't know if someone planned the order of coaches, but it was "dead on." After looking back on the day, I can't imagine how to improve it. If it was "providence" we were blessed. Eddie [Holt] was great as a first up guy. Relaxed and congenial, he helped the guys lose their jitters, while making note of some basic fixes. Dave [Cowin] continued the relaxation process and continued to plant the idea of 'you can sing and perform better without suggesting we didn't sing well. After lunch, Jay [Giallombardo] started to zero in on some specifics — both for the chorus and individuals.

We all know that Jay brings a lot to the table, and by the time his hour was over, it was appropriate for Bob Squires to shift the emphasis to presentation. Due to past coaching sessions, he had learned how to speak our language and we have learned his. I felt we got a lot accomplished that hour, mostly because we didn't have to start at zero.

At this point, the chorus went to a vocal production class with Jim DeBusman along with the Kankakee and Rockford choruses.

I don't think anyone planned for the first hour with Jim [DeBusman's] Vocal Production class, but we certainly felt validated by the amount of effort Jim exerted on our behalf. I feel we got a lot of "this is something YOU can do" while the rest of the class might have felt the session had gotten specific although we all know that just watching Jim DeBusman work with singers is always educational and inspirational.

All of the coaches brought us something to take home. No exceptions. The guys commented on this Tuesday night. We took at least 20 minutes to discuss IDAH, and I had to end it out of consideration for those who did not attend. It was fun listening to them sort out what the coaches had said. I let them sort it out mostly because my memory is not that great and I didn't get everything written down. Again ALL the coaches got mentioned during the "re-hash." If you don't think those guys didn't have a great day, chew on this: They all expressed disappointment we didn't get to sing in the evening! How cool is that? The coaches had us so convinced that we learned so well that we wanted to "show off."

One more thought. I learned so much about my chorus. Listening to the positive comments, watching the guys respond to the many things they were asked to try, the barbershop chatter at dinner and in the van (six of us) on the way home was so uplifting. Tuesday night we even talked about dropping the "Well, we aren't going to win the district contest anyway" kind of talk we have been using, and even started giving ourselves permission to ask "Why not?"

I think I've said enough to make the point. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and can't wait for the next IDAH.

# QCA supports IDAH quartets in a big way

by Bob Squires

Sixteen quartets were able to attend coaching sessions at our IDAH music school thanks to the financial assistance provided by our Illinois District Quartet Champions Association.

As the plans for IDAH were being set in place, QCA president, Dick Kingdon and the QCA board of directors got together and decided that, since quartet promotion was one of the established goals of their organization, it would be a worthy gesture to help district quartets realize their goal of attending IDAH and the quartet coaching sessions.

The QCA board decided that they would provide \$100 for each quartet that registered for IDAH and completed the six hours of intensive coaching sessions. As a result of this gesture, 16 quartets were able to take advantage and successfully complete a full day of coaching.

During the afterglow on the Saturday night of IDAH, QCA treasurer, Steve Davis, proudly presented each quartet with their \$100 check.

The quartets and the Illinois District would like to sincerely thank the QCA for their gesture and support of quarteting in Illinois.

## A 20 year member Soliloquy

by Charlie Davenport  
BHS Membership Director

Having just received my 20-year membership card, I offer a soliloquy after 20 years:

As is often the case, I joined the Society after having established a family and a career in my mid-thirties. I had spent many years devoted to musical endeavors but had not found a good outlet for some time. I wanted to be around people I liked, people who liked to have fun, who valued families, who loved music, and who loved to learn about music. A criteria for me was also a group that avoided all things political and religious. I was so thrilled to discover a SPEBSQSA chapter at this time in my life. After 20 years, where singing Barbershop Quartet music has been a weekly event, and often much more, in my life, I would like to make some observations.

Although as with any group of people, whether a PTA, a church, a soccer club, a Boy Scout troop, a community organization, your office, etc., there is arrogance, some in-fighting, some clicks, and some difficulties; overall I have never met a better collection of people in my life. The combination of good will, hope, fellowship, genuine love for their fellow man, and efforts to make life better for each other is unsurpassed.

I am primarily a quartet man. Singing in a quartet is why I joined the Society and it still is my greatest pleasure. However, the chapter is a great way to meet other quartet people and work on improving skills. As [local leader name removed] often says, find what you want to do, what brings you

great joy in this hobby and do that but remember the more you put into it, the more you will get back.

As a quartet singer, I have competed in over 10 district contests (placing sixth once), over 10 international prelim contests, and about 10 division level contests. As a chorus singer, I have placed last at district, first at district and sang on the international stage multiple times. I have headlined shows with a quartet, done stand-up comedy, acted in shows, taught physics courses, stayed up all night singing tags with people I just met, sung with Alzheimer's patients who can no longer speak, sung amazing Valentines, sung at quartet members' funerals, sung at Veterans' ceremonies, sung before baseball games, done live sound, recorded CD's, and generally had a wonderful time. I hope it continues for at least another 20 years.

Every organization is cyclical, and we may be in a low ebb, but you will not find a better place to spend your time and efforts while enjoying yourself and making the world a little bit better place to be than singing in a SPEBSQSA chapter.

## Living the Baritone Oath

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there lived a newly-registered quartet that entered their first contest. Upon receiving their score, they appeared at the exalted and appointed hour for a coaching and critique session with the most revered judges. They sang portions of their contest numbers as appropriately requested by each judge. They complied with each suggestion and improved their performance a hundred-fold in less than half-an-hour.

But one judge, highly respected both as a director and as a baritone singer, stopped them in the middle of a phrase and said "Just a minute! That's not a complete chord! You, sir, (pointing to the bari), your note is up here". For indeed, the bari had been doubling (an octave down) the seventh the tenor was singing. The chord was now a four-part chord, (confirmed by the presence of the overtone angels) whereas before it had been lacking the third. The quartet thanked the judge for his advice, marveled at his powers of observation and returned to their hometown vowing never to let their bari make THAT mistake again.

At their next rehearsal, they took out their sheet music and found the offending chord. "Aha!" the baritone cried, "It is NOT my mistake after all! See the notes--I have been singing the seventh correctly. The tenor-singer is the dunce. HE should sing the high third, not be doubling my seventh. I have been singing the right note all along!"

Indeed, by the spots on the paper, the error WAS the tenor's. But a question remained: "How did this contest judge, highly respected baritone that he is, make this judgmental error and unjustly vilify the poor baritone of this newly-registered quartet?"

Upon contacting the aforementioned judge, the quartet learned that the answer, of course, lies in the Baritone's Oath. The Baritone Oath: "I do hereby pledge, upon the pitchpipe of my beloved mentor, Owen Clifton Cash, to assume the responsibility to never permit a three-part chord to be sung, for it will most assuredly fail to ring. I will endeavor and persevere to discover the Fourth note and will sing it thus in perfect intonation and balance with my

comrades."

Notice that this pledge makes no mention of "the arrangement" or "the sheet music." The baritone's compass is the notes the other three guys are singing. The course he steers is of course, the fourth note. Thus the lowly baritone of our newly-registered quartet finds he cannot hide behind a mere published arrangement, blessed though it may be in the great stone halls of Kenosha-by-the-Lake. He is called upon to live by a higher standard, namely the Baritone's Oath. It is by the Oath that this contest judge, highly-respected baritone that he is, judges other baritones.

And what of the baritones in the chorus that this judge directs? When the tenors (light of cranial capacity as they are) sing the first note that pops into their limited brains, the baritones must obey their oath and then find and sing that Fourth note, regardless of the alleged arrangement. But heaven help them when this chorus's assistant director takes over. He is neither a bari nor is he sympathetic to their cause. He finds no merit in the Baritone's Oath, and forces the poor baritones to renounce their Oath and SING THE SPOTS! What an untenable circumstance they are in!

No wonder paranoia is an exclusively baritone affliction.

**Source: The Harmonet (1994-95?)**  
**Author: Tom Emmertbarit1@att.net**

## 4th Annual Southern Illinois Youth in Harmony Festival

The Coles County Barbershoppers are a relatively small chorus of 30 to 35 men who come from 18 different towns within a 75-mile radius of Charleston/Mattoon. On any given Tuesday night, chorus members will drive a total of from 1,200 to 1,500 miles just to practice. They did the same for the YIH festival. Fourteen of the men performed duties (car parking, registration, riser and sound system transport and positioning, hosting, singing with the youngsters etc) for 12 hours ( 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and then they drove home — a 14 hour day for most of them.

### **Following are the cast of characters who organized the event:**

- Dave Clausing, co-chair of the event, worked hard in communication with schools (mailing out music, learning CD's, obtaining post-event evaluations, taking photos, etc.) and was everywhere during the festival, making sure everyone was in the right place at the right time and seeing that nothing slipped through the cracks.
- Tim Woodall — a 31-year barbershopper, new candidate judge in Singing and the Assistant Director of the Coles County Chorus, led a meaningful informal discussion with the teachers, relating to intonation issues in a cappella singing. In addition to being the sound man and electronics expert for the day, he sang with the boys and showed great personal interest in them throughout the day.
- Tom Woodall — a 46-year barbershopper, certified judge (36 years), Director of the Coles County Chorus, and co-chair for the YIH event, did a special presentation for 43 music students at Eastern Illinois University.

One teacher (her father was a barber-shopper) arranged for the class to observe and then attend a video presentation about the history of barbershop singing, including unique features of the style. Two students joined

Tom/Tim in a tag to end the session. Later, Tom made a presentation to the Music Educators concerning parody performances, emphasizing recognizable melodies and topics of current interest.

### Outside Help

- **Jim Debusman** — 23-year BHS staff member, soloist, quartet singer, judge, coach and choral director. The boys responded extremely well to Jim’s leadership, and by the end of the day, they performed extremely well — with no music to lean on.

- **The Ovation Quartet** — four very experienced quartet members from Galesburg, Granite City, Springfield and St. Louis. They acted as multiple clinicians and the teaching quartet/section leaders. They brought great passion to the event and the girls chorus (150-plus members who could hardly fit on the stage) responded with great enthusiasm. They also performed extremely well on the evening show with several “up beat” numbers that appealed to the youngsters.



as well as a little doo wop and a very nice ballad. The men all are members of the Champaign Chapter and were very good staffers.

### Attendance and Evaluations

This year, 220 students from 12 different high schools, attended YIH with their teachers. There was about a 2 to 1 ratio of girls to boys and one foreign exchange student from Finland, who had never before heard barbershop singing. Post-event evaluation forms were given to the students and



Tim Woodall, Tom Woodall, Dave Clausing Ovation Quartet Lora Wright (Galesburg), Marsha Pierce (St. Louis), Jody Little (Granite City) and Roseann Haven (Springfield) Prairie Blend Quartet (Champaign) Vern Knapp, Hugo Feugen (Jim Debusman Nashville, TN) Dennis Mulvany and Kevin Swartz

teachers (with a total of 211 forms completed and returned). Altogether, 89 percent of the students rated the overall festival experience as either very good or outstanding. On a scale of 1 to 7 points, the music educators scored an average of 6.8 . Teachers and students alike provided many interesting insights as to what they learned and how they perceived the benefits of the YIH program.

### Evening Performance

More than 650 people attended the 75-minute show, which was held in at 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ball Room at Eastern Illinois University. Students sang the songs they had learned during the day. The boys' chorus (about 75) sang "Happy Together" and "The Lions Sleeps Tonight." The girls' chorus sang "Sha Boom," "Lean on Me," and "Swing Down Chariot." Then both choruses sang together a beautiful eight-part version of "America the Beautiful."



Mt. Zion Octet (minus 1)

In addition, we heard from the **Mt. Zion Octet** and the **Measure 87** boys quartet. **Ovation** and **Prairie Blend** gave outstanding performances at the evening show and received "Standing Ovations" after every song.

Of special interest is that Vern Knapp (bass in **Prairie Blend**), got his start in barbershopping with the Coles County Chorus some 39 years ago. Vern attended Charleston High School. Sixteen years ago, Rich Hansen (now the Illinois District Youth In Harmony Director and guru to almost numerous high school barbershop quartets/octets, etc.) became a student at Eastern Illinois University. He joined the Coles County Barbershoppers and for the last 12 years as been the "Pied Piper" of barbershop singing at Mt. Zion High School.

The placard "The Victims" says it all!



A small ensemble from the Coles County Barbershoppers performed their special baseball package, ending with a Cubs medley. The lyrics were written a month ago and the tag had to be changed from

"the Cubs are going all the way...hip hip hooray" to "the Cubs will win again now never fear.....wait 'til next year."

### Special Sessions for College Students and Music Educators

Tom Woodall made an hour presentation (history, style and even taught



a tag) to 43 Eastern Illinois University Music Students, several of whom made it to the evening show. He also had a session with the music educators in attendance. They viewed some fun “parody” performances on DVD and discussed what might make for good song parodies and lyric selections. Tim Woodall met with the Music Educators to discuss the BHS quartet/chorus contest judging system. They also discussed “intonation issues and fixes for a cappella singers.”



**Boys' chorus  
(upper left)  
Girls' chorus  
(upper right)  
Mixed chorus  
(lower center)**

### **Financial Support**

We are very fortunate to receive cash and in-kind support from several sources. Locally, the Charleston Area Charitable Foundation and Eastern Illinois University have been extremely helpful. The Illinois District of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the International Barbershop Harmony Society have both shown great support and the Sweet Adelines, Inc. again provided free music and learning CD's for the girls. What a support team and we are so thankful and appreciative of those efforts.

### **Next Year's Plans**

The 5th Annual YIH Festival has been scheduled for the EIU campus next fall October 19, 2009 Mark your calendars. Contact Dave Clausing ([clausing@mchsi.com](mailto:clausing@mchsi.com)) 217- 273-4773 or Tom Woodall ([twoodall@eiu.edu](mailto:twoodall@eiu.edu)) 217-549-6671.

# Stephen Wilde Joins VOCE

NEW YORK, NY, November 29, 2008: International Quartet Champion Stephen Wilde is the new tenor singer of the vocal group, **VOCE**.

Original tenor Joel Beets recently resigned from the foursome. According to baritone Paul Harris, "We had a great run and the Illinois District Championship with Joel. We wish him the best in his future endeavors."

Hailing from Pittsburgh, Penn., in the Johnny Appleseed District, Stephen Wilde won the 1994 International Quartet Championship at home as the tenor of **Joker's Wild**. With his arrival, **VOCE** now has two gold medalists in the ensemble, as bass Jay Giallombardo won the Quartet Championship in 1979 with the very popular **Grandma's Boys**.

Stephen brings a wealth of education and experience to **VOCE**, as he holds two graduate degrees in acting; a Master of Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon, and a graduate degree from The Moscow Art Theatre School in Russia. He is a professional actor/singer living in the Upper East Side of New York City, not far from where lead singer, Keith Harris, a professional opera singer, resides (he's on the Upper West Side). Paul Harris, from Madison Wis., rounds out the four-some. Paul has the unique ability of singing both tenor and baritone.

Stephen is a member of the Manhattan, N.Y. chapter (the **BIG APPLE CHORUS**). He is a founder and Managing Partner of **NAKED VOICE RECORDS, LLC**, which distributes the contest recordings of the Barbershop Harmony Society worldwide through more than 50 vendors, including Apple's ubiquitous iTunes Store. Professionally, Stephen Wilde has been seen on and off Broadway in many hit plays and musicals, and was part of the *Music Man* Touring company with lead parts in the show.

Here is the current performance schedule for **VOCE**:

April 18, 2009 – Appleton, Wis.

April 25, 2009 - Green Bay, Wis.

May 1-3, 2009 – Land O Lakes Preliminary Competition, Stevens Point, Wis.

July 1-5, 2009 - Barbershop Harmony Society International Competition, Anaheim, Calif.

November 14, 2009 – Rock Valley Chapter, Janesville Wis.



**VOCE** — (left to right)  
Paul Harris, bari  
Jay Giallombardo, bass  
Keith Harris, lead  
Stephen Wilde, tenor

## *In Memory*

# Dan Terhune

Dan began his barbershop life at the age of 40, joining the Springfield, Ill., chapter in November of 1976. In 1978 he moved to Champaign, Ill., and joined the **Illini Statesman Chorus**. During that time he was Program VP, Membership VP, President and for many years Treasurer. He also served as Area Counselor for the Illinois District. He sang tenor in the quartets — **Champaign Edition**, **Flatlands**, **AARPsichords**, and **Antique Collection**, all of which competed in the Illinois District competitions.

In 1995 Dan received the Barbershopper of the Year for the Champaign Chapter, 1996 Barbershopper of the Year for the Central Division of the Illinois District, and 2005 Barbershopper of the Year for the Vero Beach, Fla. Chapter. In Florida, Dan sang with the Ft. Lauderdale 2008 Sunshine district champions and also with the Vero Beach chorus. He was president and assistant director for the Vero Beach chorus. He sang tenor in the **Indrio** and **Moonlighters** quartets which competed in the Sunshine District contests.

Dan was know for singing songs, and tags anywhere, with anyone, and at any-time and was always part of the last four-some to call it quits at district conventions.