

Subject: **Harmony Explosion**

Date: Mon, 27 Jun 2005

From: Bill Bernard



AWESOME

"Awesome" was the word most used by boys filling out evaluation sheets about the Harmony Explosion Camp 2005. Those fortunate enough to be in the audience for the Saturday night Sizzle show would have to agree. In 2 ½ days the boys learned 6 songs and performed them to the delight of their parents and district barbershoppers. If you were one of the 20 chapters, 2 barbershop clubs, 2 quartets, 11 individuals, 2 anonymous donors, and anyone from the Sam Breedon Foundation who sponsored these boys with a scholarship, then you deserve a round of applause. Their performance was truly magical.

Here are the individuals and groups I take my hat off to: **The chapters** of Melbourne, Orlando, Key West, Englewood, Manatee, Sebring, Naples, Venice, Hernando, Tampa, Citrus County, **Ft. Lauderdale**, Daytona Beach, Central Florida, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Clermont, First Coast Metropolitans, Miami and Palm Beach County, The Belle Chords and the Melody Men (two independent barbershop groups who believe in our youth program), two quartets, the Banana River Bouyz and the Bobcats, The Sam Breedon Foundation, and 11 individuals, namely Fred Breedon, Bob Romaine, Don Himmelman, Ned Fogler, Bob Boemler, Bill Frost, Bob Franklin, Wayne Brosovich, Brett White, Tom Randolph and Ron Tarr. The above are living examples of "Encouraging Barbershop Quartet Singing in America."

Events like this just don't happen. Many hours of labor were done by Dave Byrd, Hari Barrett (a devoted Sweet Adeline), Steve Matheson of the Tampa Chapter, Ken Carter, Joe Pfeifer and Wayne Page of the Central Florida Chapter, Ned Fogler and his telephone committee (Tom Davidson, Ken Delaney, John Bradford, Jeff Finney, Ken Reed, Brett Cleveland and Bob Houle), Ken Reed of the Daytona Beach Chapter, and the 11 chaperones who devoted 4 days to supervising these young men: Ken and Kathleen Carter, Bob and Dottie Vincuilla, Hari Barrett, my wife Jeannette Bernard, Ned and Ann Fogler, Ken Reed and Joe Pfeifer. We can't thank you all enough.

A special thanks to our two clinicians Dr. Bill Adams from North Carolina and Mike O'Neill, former bass of Station 59. Mike was a last minute replacement but you'd never know it. Both did a magnificent job. **FORTISSIMO** also has to be congratulated for the wonderful job they did in teaching and inspiring the boys to do their best.

Something mystical happened during one of the rehearsals. Dr. Bill Adams, one of the two fabulous clinicians, was working with the boys in the lobby of the Visual Arts Building teaching them what has to happen to make overtones, matching vowels, balancing the chord, being exactly on pitch, and then involved the 87 boys to prove his points. They sang a tag in a circle until they got it just right. Then all parts sang except the tenors and of course their note came in as an overtone just as clear as a bell. The boys giggled and jumped up and down upon hearing this unsung note. To say the least they were very excited. Now we barbershoppers know that's just the science of sound. However that's not the mystical part. In the lobby of the Visual Arts Building there are two heavy double glass doors. When Dr. Bill taught the boys to keep their mouths open on the last word so as not to cut off the sound these two double doors opened and then closed by themselves as the sound disappeared. This was witnessed by several of the chaperones who were listening on the outside of the circle. It really freaked them out. Not possible you say? I was also taught in school that it's impossible for a bee to fly.

To this all I can add is "awesome."

Bill Bernard, Harmony Explosion Coordinator