

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 15 – 1978 First International Chorus Medal

Fourth Place Bronze Medal, 40th Annual International Convention and Contests
SPEBSQSA, Cincinnati OH, July 6-8, 1978



ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS SCOTT WERNER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

1978 FOURTH PLACE BRONZE MEDAL, INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST, CINCINNATI OH, JULY 6-8, 1978

FIRST ROW ALAN DURICK, RICK LOVELAND, BOB BALDERSON, MIKE ORGAN, RANDY LAZEAR, DAVE SHINN, DON SEELEY, JOHN RETENMAYER, SCOTT WERNER, THOMAS MENEFFEE, MYLES REYNOLDS, RICK SAVAGE, MIKE WALLEN, JIM LUCEY, JIM GAMMON, STEVE HALL, BRIAN RODDA. **SECOND ROW** JOHN HOHL, BILL TAYLOR, REX CORDT, BILL SANDO, RAY O'CONNELL, CHRIS MORROW, JIM BALDWIN, TERRY JORDAN, HANK RICKER, LEWIS SMITH, BOB FULMER, DICK BODLE, BOB ADAMS, WARREN ZITZMANN, TED FITCH, DON PROST, MIKE EVERARD, MIKE RIORDAN. **THIRD ROW** NELSON SUBLETT, AL SMITH, DICK HUGHES, JON EVANS, ROLAND EVANS, DAVE MICHELSON, SAM RADOW, HENRY BROWN, DICK HALL, DALE HOUSER, BOB BENDER, LINTON REED, STEVE REID, WILLIAM BAECHELER, JIM RITCHIE, MIKE MARTIN, DON JOHNSON, CLIFF HOWARD, JOE CRAIG, JOHN PARKINSON, ANDRE MARECHAL, BILL MCDONALD. **FOURTH ROW** CHARLES EVERLY, NOEL HYDE, BEDE BENDER, JACK MCKENDREE, FRED CATTO, JACK HOLCOMB, HODGES DEMPSEY, CECIL ASHFORD, WALTER PAGE, HERB MCALISTER, BEN COLLINS, STEVE MARTIN, SETH HUISMAN, DAVE PECK, CHARLES HARNER, JOHN ADAMS, CLAYTON SEELEY, TONY RODOLAKIS, LARRY ROSS, WILL WINDER, JIM WILSON, WILBUR SCHMIDT, DON ANDERSON. **FIFTH ROW** BILL CODY, DICK WHITEHOUSE, STEVE WHITE, BOB FEDEL, LEN METALLO, AL DUDDLESTON, FRANK BEAHM, TED HIGHBERGER, WILBUR SPARKS, CHUCK FULLER, LEE HANSON, JACK SHIELDS, TOM DEHAVEN, ROSS JOHNSON, BILL MEGONNELL, DOUG SMITH, JON LOWE, BAKER COLLINS, PHIL ROBERTS, PHIL KREPPS, DAVE WILT, DAVE LORD, AL WHITE, JACK PITZER

Musical Director **Scott Werner** Associate Director **John Hohl**
Chapter President **Bill Sando**
104 chorus members

“I Tore Up Your Picture When You Said Goodbye” (**John Hohl**, Arranger)
“No Wonder I’m Happy” (**John Hohl**, Arranger)

The Alexandria Chapter’s first chance to experience the excitement of International chorus competition would change its members’ barbershop activities, attitudes, and ambitions. It would mean a more intensive search for ways to improve Harmonizer vocal and visual performance, greater emphasis on the administrative necessities for international contests, and financial challenges as Alexandria’s annual budgets increased by tens of thousands of dollars.

The chorus’s first international contest included several events that would become traditions in subsequent years. One was the first Togetherness Dinner and another was a chorus breakfast on the day of the contest. The chorus had drawn the first singing position. The tension grew as Harmonizers, in their new yellow uniforms, were finally on the risers and ready to sing. Time seemed to stand still for a moment until the Master of Ceremonies made his announcement – “Representing

the Mid-Atlantic District, under the direction of **Scott Werner**, from Alexandria, Virginia, the **Harmonizers**.”

The curtains opened on the chorus and the portrait of a “very special lady,” who was the subject of the ballad. The mood was balanced by the up-tune. Never had 299 seconds gone faster as in the singing of the two contest songs. It may very well be that the chorus peaked on the stage that day. The applause was another kind of music for the Harmonizers. To be fourth on the first try for international honors was no small accomplishment. Adding to the excitement, the **Nova Chords** were Fifth Place Medalists, and **John Hohl** arrangements were used by three choruses competing that day!

Harmonious Tagline:

One hundred and four Harmonizers were in the 1978 International Chorus. Fifteen of them are 2017 members of the Alexandria Chapter.

Historical Tagline:

The 70’s was not a unique decade in terms of creating innovations in musical styles and genres, but it was unique in that it was a musical bridge connecting the hippie lifestyle of the 1960s with the characteristic yuppie lifestyle that was about to occur in the 1980s.