

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 20 – 1986 First International Chorus Gold

1986 International Champion Chorus
48th Annual International Convention and Contests, SPEBSQSA,
Salt Palace Arena, Salt Lake City UT, June 29-July 6, 1986



Musical Director **Scott Werner** Associate Director **Mike Wallen**
Chapter President **Royall Geis**
Assistant Directors **Will Cox, Dave Barton** Stage Presence Advisor **Geri Geis**
105 men awarded First Place Gold Medal

“You Can Have Every Light On Broadway” (**Nancy Bergman**, Arranger)

“Keep Your Sunny Side Up” (**Ed Waesche**, Arranger)

On July 5, 1986, the Alexandria Harmonizers reached our unreachable star. After some 36 years of competition, we finally earned the international gold medal. The Harmonizer budget is always high, but in an international year the figure becomes astronomical, requiring added revenues from selling cheese and pizzas and performing annual shows and package shows. After winning the district contest we didn't slow our normally busy pace of shows and other activities—no “two-song syndrome” for the Harmonizers. Amidst all these chapter activities, **Scott** and his music team and outside coaches were busy preparing the chorus for the international contest stage.

After several rehearsals in Salt Lake City, Friday ended with the traditional Togetherness Dinner where soft-spoken **Carolyn Hall**, President of the (then) Harmonettes, pointed out that she had been admonished not to mention “the gold.” Then her voice took on an unaccustomed ring of authority as she said, “I

don't care what they tell me, it's time for the Harmonizers to kick it into high gear, and we want to win this contest!'

"...and your new 1986 International Chorus Champion, from Alexandria, Virginia—the Harmonizers!"

Wilbur Sparks' convention issue of *The Echo* (18 pages) included "THANKS"...First, to each member who sang in Salt Lake City...Second, to the musical leaders of earlier years...Third, to the music and stage presence teams including **Mike Wallen, Will Cox, Dave Barton, John Adams, Steve White, Bob Bates**...Fourth, to **Geri Geis**, whose future influence on the Society was foreshadowed by our stage presence package...Fifth, to **Darryl Flinn**, our coach for several years...and Finally, the greatest thanks went to **Scott Werner**, for low-pressure insistence on enjoyment of our hobby while, at the same time, calling for our best.

Harmonious Tagline:

The Alexandria Harmonizers have been awarded four First Place Gold Medals (1986, 1989, 1995, 1998). The 2017 membership of the Alexandria Chapter includes 90 men who have one or more Harmonizer Gold Medals.