

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 24 - 1989 Second International Chorus Gold

1989 International Champion Chorus

51st Annual International Convention and Contests, SPEBSQSA, Kansas City MO,
July 2-9, 1989

Musical Director **Scott Werner** Associate Director **Mike Wallen**

Chapter President **Bede Bender**

Stage Presence Advisor **Geri Geis**



125 men awarded First Place Gold Medal

“Oh, How I Miss You Tonight” (**John Hohl**, Arranger) and

“Nobody’s Sweetheart” (**Tom Gentry**, Arranger)

In Kansas City in July, the Harmonizers were looking forward to the opportunity to successfully defend their first chorus championship—only two choruses had previously accomplished that feat: **Dapper Dans of Harmony** (Livingston NJ) in 1967 and 1970 and the **Dukes of Harmony** (Scarborough ON) in 1977 and 1980. Every morning in Kansas City, each Harmonizer found a present left by the **Harmonettes**. The front row and “end men” had daily rehearsals before the chorus met. Our coaches, **Darryl Flinn** and **Jim Casey**, visited on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday morning each Harmonizer found a letter of encouragement from **Geri** under his door. All too soon it was time for each man to get dressed and ready to go to the contest site at the Kemper Arena. **Geri** and **Bill Cody** called on us to close our eyes and think of the ballad and the scenario, then together chant the lyrics, and to “be that person!” We were moved to the “ready room”

where we had our customary pre-contest prayer, and it was time for 125 men to go on stage. With virtually no delay, the voice of the MC, **Fred King**, came through, announcing that the next chorus would be *“from Alexandria, Virginia, under the direction of **Scott Werner, the Harmonizers**,”* and the curtain rapidly moved upward as the crowd roared.

“...And the new champion...Alexandria!” The Alexandria section was a shambles. Men were crying, women were adding screams to tears, some were dancing, and some were sitting in silence. As they exited the auditorium, friends, and even strangers who recognized the pink flower on the white tuxedos grasped their outstretched hands. Many were still in shock. When the score sheets came out they showed that consistency across all the categories had won the contest—although the Harmonizers did not have the highest score in any of the three categories, they won the only category that counted: total points.

Harmonious Tagline:

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