

## Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

### No. 27 - 1995 Third International Chorus Gold

#### 1995 International Champion Chorus



57th Annual International Convention and Contests, SPEBSQSA, Miami Beach  
FL. July 2-9, 1995

Musical Director **Scott Werner**    Artistic Director **Geri Geis**  
Chapter President **Chris Buechler**  
Associate Director **Mike Wallen**

130 men awarded First Place Gold Medals, singing:

“I’ll Be Seeing You”  
(Arranged by **Rob Hopkins**, Verse Lyrics and Music by **Eric Jackson**)  
and  
“Sweet Georgia Brown” (Arranged by **Ed Waesche**)

For 1995, the chapter leadership’s approach to contest preparation remained basically the same as in previous years with mandatory attendance at the last few rehearsals, one studio session and the contest retreat. Since the performance quality of the chorus contest kept increasing each year, the standards for acceptable individual performance, both vocal and visual, had to increase for the chorus to remain competitive for any medal.

The contest songs in 1995 paired the percussive, driving energy of the highly successful “Sweet Georgia Brown” with a new ballad, “I’ll Be Seeing You,” that mingled hope with longing and ended with positive expectation. The drama of these songs would be apparent from the moment the curtain opened on an intriguing scene—street lights framing the stage, with the chorus members lounging in a variety of relaxed poses, some on a park bench, in black trousers, white shirt with open collar, and a brocade vest.

After the Harmonizers reached Miami Beach, **Darryl Flinn** and **Greg Lyne** joined them at rehearsals. At one point in the ballad, Greg said, “This is where you should tell the audience how you feel. Please put your hands on your hearts and unzip them just one-half inch.” Later, before the chorus went on stage, Greg said: “The time is getting very close. Now I want each of you to put his hand on his heart and zip it all the way down!” After the curtain opened, the whooping and clapping audience grew hushed as it viewed the tableau created by the chorus. The spell of the ballad was already evident. And the chorus began to sing... “*Once in a lifetime, maybe...*”

The audience was caught up in the magic mood of the new story being told by the chorus. It radiated from the face of every chorus member. Later, the performance of “I’ll Be Seeing You” was described as the best ballad of the contest, perhaps the best ever. It was called exquisite” and “artistic.” **Ron Black**, the Music Category specialist, said of it: “That’s the only time I’ve heard a song take over the stage!” Another judge thought the song started with such incredible emotion and presence that there was no way it could be sustained. But in fact it was maintained throughout. That rendition plus an exciting (and sexy) performance on “Sweet Georgia Brown” resulted in the announcement:

“In First, and our new champion—the **Alexandria Harmonizers!**”

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.