

First International Chorus Gold - 1986

1986 International Champion Chorus 48th Annual 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. Amidst all these chapter activities, the 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 Togetherness Dinner where soft-spoken Carolyn Hall, President of the 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!"

Harmonious Tagline # 1. Wilbur Sparks' convention issue of The Echo (18 pages) included "THANKS". ...to each member who sang in Salt Lake City...to the music and stage presence teams including Mike Wallen, Will Cox, Dave Barton, John Adams, Steve White, Bob Bates...to Geri Geis, whose future influence on the Society was foreshadowed by our stage presence package...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 # 2. Scott Werner.-Musical Director for 30 years, taking the Harmonizers to win four Gold Medals and perform in four Kennedy Center Honors

programs. He was Chapter President in 1967-68, in the M-AD Hall of Honor, and sang lead in the International medalist quartets NOVA Chords and Vaudeville. He was one of only two men in BHS history to win a gold medal as a quartet member in International competition (International Seniors Quartet Champion Reminisce) and also as director of an International chorus champion in the same year (1995). In 2002, Scott retired to The Villages, Florida where he subsequently became Musical Director of the new Heart of Florida Chorus.