

Fourth International Chorus Gold - 1998

1998 International Champion Chorus 60th Annual International Convention and Contests, SPEBSQSA, Atlanta GA, June 28-July 5, 1998 Musical Director Scott Werner Artistic Director Geri Geis Chapter President Alan Wile Associate Director Mike Wallen

124 men awarded First Place Gold Medals, singing: "Always/In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning" (Walter Latzko, Arranger) and "Everybody Loves My Baby/Steppin' Out Medley" (Ed Waesche, Arranger)



As the plans for celebrating our golden Fiftieth Anniversary took final form, the Harmonizers could not help thinking how appropriate another gold medal would be. During our International Contest rehearsals in Atlanta, we were visited by Jim and Greg Clancy, the father-son directorship of the Vocal Majority, and by our coach, Greg Lyne, who was presented a framed picture of the Pentagon signed by all those "Pentagon men." Jim Clancy later recalled his visit from the stage while presenting the championship trophy to the Harmonizers: "When I heard you do that ballad in your practice room and it made me cry, I knew you had something special."

Over the past decade, Harmonizers' performances at international contests have prompted many to say that our front row is one of the best in the Society. While this is due in large part to Geri Geis as its choreographer, it is no less due to the hard work and practice of its members. As the chorus approached its contest stage time, it drew confidence from the knowledge that not only its front row, but the entire chorus, was ready to put on its best performance ever.

Our golden performance was captured by the Harmonet reporter Steve Tremper: "...[The] curtain opened to show the whole chorus dressed in...a smoking jacket type top, with a gold tunic...as they started the haunting lyrics of...[the ballad]...we saw men in the middle of the night, pacing in anguish while the rest of the world slept. They rarely sang over a mid-level sound, yet their singing was incredibly intense and focused... The

song ended in dead silence, and the erupting applause shocked my senses for a moment.

I barely recovered when the chorus instantly changed faces, attitudes, and moods...for a fantastic wild dance production number, fully Broadway quality...the tunics were shed for black tie and tails, and top hats popped out of nowhere...the Harmonizers blasted us with their fancy footwork and incredible style...The crowd leapt to its feet in a thundering standing ovation, and as the curtain came down...the arena crowd...[was] sure they had just seen the winner of the contest."

"...and your 1998 International Chorus Champion with 2,793 points,...the Alexandria Harmonizers."