



The New MexiChords Barbershop Chorus

The **SERENADER**

*Celebrating 73 Years of Barbershop Harmony in Albuquerque  
Chartered September 14, 1952 - Incorporated October 2, 1953*

E-Newsletter



Editor: Fred Green poolvacman@gmail.com ■ January 2026 ■ An Occasional Publication As the Need Arises

## HOW YOU CAN SING LIKE NOBODY IS LISTENING

by Audrey Hunt

When I was a child, singing was something my family would all do together. Our parents taught us how you can sing like nobody is listening. We loved to sing and it became a daily event. Besides, it was free; we had little money and times were hard.

Family dinners consisted mostly of bread and gravy made from flour, water, and sometimes a little bacon grease. On occasion, daddy would ask if he could pick some green beans for his family at a nearby neighbors patch. Dessert was mostly bread pudding, which I hated.

I was the oldest of three and responsible for washing the dishes and taking care of my little sister and brother. We all sang songs taught to us by momma and learned to imitate tunes that daddy would sing. As I said, singing required no money so we did a good deal of it.

On weekends, momma would take the three of us to visit "old people" that we never even knew and we would sing for them in what appeared to be some kind of hospital. I remember how the nurses and staff would smile at us and give us such gracious compliments as we sang.

I don't know if I had the better voice of the three of us, or was just more out-going, but I always ended up singing solos. Sometimes I was told that I had a mature voice and that I sounded like an angel when I sang. Momma always loved to hear that. I guess I did too.

I learned that the sound of the human voice as it moves from one pitch to another with "feeling", can actually touch another human being. Musical sounds produced by the voice can change a person's chemistry.

I also learned that through singing, I had the power to help heal pain and sorrow, and that a song coming from the heart can turn sorrow into joy. And I knew that this was a gift I could give to others that cost nothing and at the same time fulfilled a need within my soul. Every time I sang, I felt so good. The mental and physical abuse that I suffered daily was replaced with a feeling of happiness. I experienced a type of joy that I had never known just through singing.

I decided to keep singing for the rest of my life. This is what I was born to do. And because singing made me feel good about myself, I made a vow that someday I would help others to achieve the same wonderful feeling through singing. I would become a teacher.

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## Me Sing? - You've Got to be Kidding

Think back to the very first time you ever began to sing. Was it at a birthday party when you were a child? Maybe it was in kindergarten singing with the other children. Or it could have been in church when you were just a little tyke.

Singing is an important part of child development. If the feedback is positive and fun, the child grows up feeling confident when he sings. The opposite is also true. If the child sings and people laugh at him or give negative feedback, he immediately says to himself, "I am not good at singing and people don't like my sound". Then the child grows to perceive himself in such a way, and he will not sing again. His confidence has been attacked. This is very sad.

## How To Start Singing With These 8 Helpful Tips

Here are 8 very easy tips to help you get started:

- Open yourself up to your own voice, without judgment or expectations. Simply allow your voice to soar, as if it had wings. The root to every successful action is desire. You must have the desire because desire is your engine, your motivating force.
- Begin by singing a song that you know well. Even "Happy Birthday To You" is fine to start with.
- Take a breath of air before each phrase (musical sentence) to help support your singing sound.
- Articulate each word. Sing clearly, concentrating on pronouncing every word.
- Sing with an easy and relaxed feeling. Avoid pushing your voice.
- Sing within your vocal range. Singing too high will sound screechy and might strain your voice.
- Your imagination houses your desire. (Picture what you want). Will you sing with passion? Perhaps you want to sing jazz. Imagine that you are a Broadway Star, or the next Pavarotti.
- Singing is a wonderful way to give thanks to the Lord. Make up your own songs and begin exercising your imagination. You did this as a child and it was easy as well as fun. This is also a good way to exercise your brain as you age. You cannot sing what you first don't think of. Your mind becomes the control room for training.

Your desire to sing will release your energy, which is used to help manifest your desire . So when you sing - imagination, desire, and energy become one with breath and sound.

## Become a Shower Singer

The biggest hurdle to overcome is your own lack of confidence. Most adult singers are still listening to the old, negative and critical messages that linger in the mind. The other factor that is limiting is to compare our singing to others. We think that if our singing doesn't match the exact sound of a recording artist then we're not any good. This type of thinking is incorrect and self limiting. My goodness, if we all imitated one another, we would all sound like a bunch of parrots.

The beauty of your singing voice is how unique it is. As we express ourselves honestly, the tone takes on an emotion which connects with our heart. How can singing from the heart be anything but beautiful?

When we sing freely, without being concerned about what another person may be thinking, our voice sounds rich and open. Consider the shower singer.

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With just the right acoustics, the body soaped up with lather and very relaxed, we sing like nobody's listening. Ahhhhhhh, yes. The singing voice seems to reverberate from somewhere else - outside of us. "Not bad", we tell ourselves. Then we continue singing.

### Why Should I Sing?

Let me begin by saying that singing is your natural birthright. In fact, as you took your very first breath upon entrance into this glorious world, the first sound you made (in the form of a cry) was a descending 5 tone scale. Whaaa!..could be heard several rooms down the corridor. Your sound was supported by air from the diaphragmatic muscle and into those tiny little lungs. Furthermore, your first sound was perfectly placed, resonating with a full vibration and not an ounce of fear present. What a performer!

### The Health Benefits of Singing

Singing exercises your lungs. As you learn how to breathe by using the diaphragm (your breathing muscle), you exhale toxins (carbon monoxide) and inhale pure oxygen.

Singing is fun. A good way to start your day is with a song (Oh what a beautiful mornin').

Professor Graham Welch of the University of London has studied developmental and medical aspects of singing for 30 years and says,

"The health benefits of singing are both physiological and psychological. Its physical benefits include increasing oxygenation of the blood stream and working major muscle groups in the upper body.

Psychologically, it has the positive effect of reducing stress levels through the action of the endocrine system, which is linked to the sense of emotional wellbeing."

Singing is something the entire family can do together - and it is free. As you learn to sing, you develop an appreciation for good singers.

Feeling down? Just sing the blues away. Singing provides us with a way to worship and thank our Creator.

"Singing reflects a state of balance and a positive inner glow of contentment and equanimity. It is the audible resonant reality of our existence." ~ Professor John Lennon

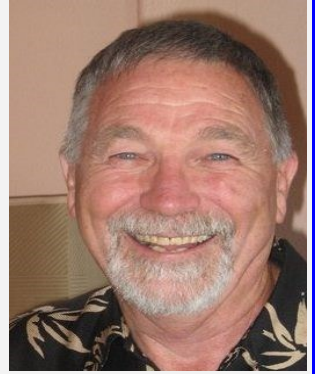
There are many more benefits that can be added to this list. But mostly, singing must be a joy to be had by all.

In conclusion, the well known song, "Singing in the Rain" is provided for you to listen to. What would be even better is to sing along and experience singing itself.

<https://youtu.be/w40ushYAaYA>

And remember to - Sing Like Nobody is Listening.

**FROM OUR DIRECTOR:  
“BIFFLEISMS”**



Hello, fellow harmonizers! As always, I hope this finds you well.

By the time you read this, it'll be a new year! What a great time to invite your family, friends, neighbors, the cop on the beat, and the clerk at the store to drop into a rehearsal and see what we're about. We'll be starting on the spring shows and some of the music will be new, so everyone will be starting at the same starting point. It won't feel to newbies quite like jumping onto the express train at cruising speed. Come on. Do it. You'll change someone's life. Don't you wish you had started singing barbershop earlier? I know I do! So, please, share the wealth.

The Christmas shows, all of them, were simply outstanding. And we got better as we went. Who knew practicing performing would make such a difference? I write this right after the Giving Machine performance at Cottonwood Mall, and – believe me – you sounded great, even in that difficult environment. So, congratulations for all the work and commitment through this busiest of seasons. And thanks, again, for the indefatigable Ruth Koury for putting all these performances together. We had fun and grew as singers, performers, and musicians, too! Who could ask for anything more?

Still mulling the theme, etc., for the spring shows, but they'll be great, if the past is prologue, as they say. Start now thinking of folks to sell ads to. Dry cleaners, dentists, realtors, insurance companies, restaurants, law firms, etc., are all great prospects. Think about it. All of these have about the same price structure, so they'll do anything reasonable to keep your business. And, if you've been a faithful customer for some time, that's even more reason to support you and your beloved chorus.

For the record, the show is the weekend of May 8 and 9. Mark your calendars now, so you don't plan a wedding or vacation or some such on that weekend.

Thanks for reading. See you Tuesday, Champs.

Bill

**If you haven't seen our Xmas show yet, it can be viewed on Youtube at:**

New MexiChords Christmas **12-12-2025 7 PM**,  
1st Half - <https://youtu.be/Delby-HiUi0>  
2<sup>nd</sup> Half - <https://youtu.be/jeK03RGzKtE>

New MexiChords Christmas **12-13-2025 2 PM**,  
1st Half - <https://youtu.be/4mO9abw4GJo>  
2<sup>nd</sup> Half - <https://youtu.be/y5INwpkIKeA>

## The New MexiChords "Lineup" as of 1 January 2026

### DIRECTOR

Bill Biffle

### BARITONE

Hudson, Hal  
Koury, Ruth  
Randall, Ron  
Strohl, Bill  
Turner, Mary

### BASS

Butler, Larry  
Grady, Richard  
Green, Fred  
Lobaton, Jay  
Maxwell, Nick  
Montgomery, Clint  
Porter, Doug  
Quintana, Jerry  
Ring, Dave  
Taylor, John  
Twiggs, Leo

### TENORS

Baker, Charlene  
Berardinelli, Bev  
Browning, Jo  
Green, Debbie  
Meyer, Cam  
Ratcliff, Hal  
Yates, Janet

### LEAD

Andrews, Tina  
Cardillo, Joe  
Cole, Tom  
Courtney, Bob  
Green, Eric  
Lash, Mike  
Leverett, Juliette  
Miracle, John  
Nelson, Arlo  
Parsons, Walt  
Preston, Judy  
Stavert, Xannie  
Taylor, Lynn  
Vertrees, Joe



### Where Do You Sing?



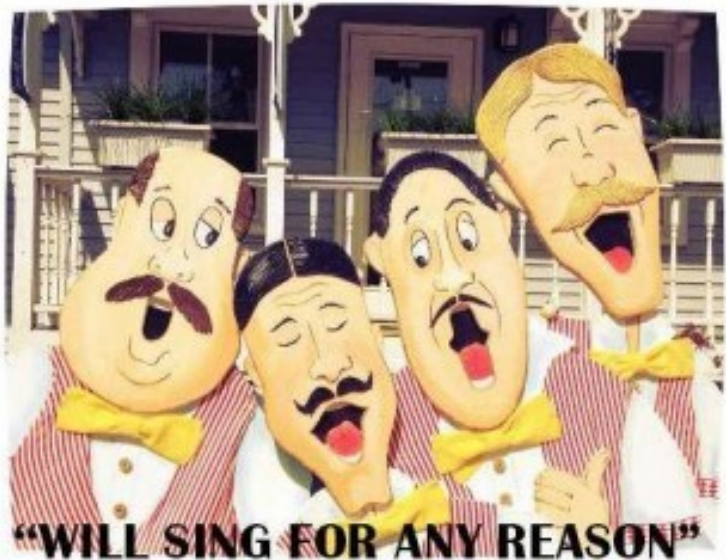
Shower?

Car?



Karaoke?

See where We Sing &  
consider joining us!



Do you love to sing? Tired of entertaining only yourself in your car or the shower? C'mon out and see how much fun it can be to sing with a group of others!

See us at:

[www.NMChords.com](http://www.NMChords.com)

Our chorus and quartets love to sing for our audiences and to share our love of barbershop. You are invited to join with us to enjoy an evening of camaraderie and great barbershop harmony. Don't miss out on the fun. Come and see what it's all about!

**What?** Weekly Chapter Meeting & Rehearsal

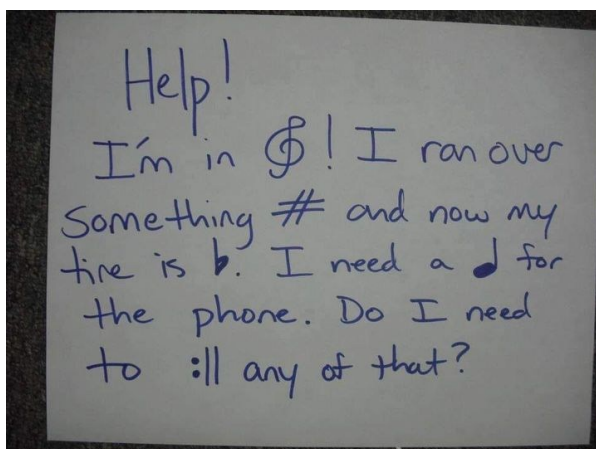
**When?** Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

**Where?** St John's United Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St NE, ABQ 87110



Here's a barbershop shout-out to our members with birthdays in January!

Xannie Stavert	2 Jan
Ron Randall	8 Jan
Bev Berardinelli	13 Jan
Ruth Koury	17 Jan
Bill Biffle	23 Jan
Joe Vertrees	31 Jan



**Singing daily for at least ten minutes reduces stress, clears sinuses, improves posture and can even help you live longer.**

# The New MexiChords Calendar

## Upcoming Chorus Events

2026

8 May - Spring Show, 7pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St, ABQ

9 May - Spring Show, 2pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St, ABQ

Stay up-to-date with us by visiting our "Shows & Events" page on the website at:

[www.NMChords.com](http://www.NMChords.com)

We are a local chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) and a member of the Rocky Mountain District (RMD), which includes parts of the following States/Areas:

*Wyoming*

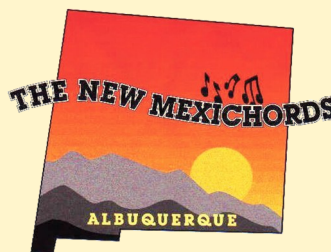
*Colorado*

Most of *Utah*

eastern *Idaho*

southern *Montana*

northern New  
western por-  
*Dakota, Ne-  
Kansas*



*Mexico  
tions of South  
braska, and*

***The Serenader*** is *your* newsletter and vehicle for sharing information, stories, and news about the chapter, chorus, quartets, and the people in them. To make it interesting and a fun read, I would encourage all of you to provide articles for publication, photos of quartets in action, our members, chorus on the risers..... Anything that you find interesting and would like to see in the newsletter to share with others. — The Editor



## Your Chuckles for January

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food, no atmosphere.

Did you hear the one about the kid who started a business tying shoelaces on the playground? It was a knot-for-profit.

I spent a lot of time, money, and effort childproofing my house, but the kids still get in.

Where did Noah keep his Bees? In the Ark Hives.

Did you hear about the person who was afraid of jumping a hurdle? They got over it.

What building has the most stories? The library!

I have a friend who speaks to his garden. Yes, Jack & the beans talk.

Did you hear that laughing too loudly is illegal in Hawaii? They only permit a-low-ha.

A guy that I went to school with over 40 years ago called me to complain about the time I put glue on his pen ... He still can't let it go!

I've just heard that scientists have grown vocal cords from stem cells in a lab... How good are they? The results speak for themselves!!

I recently bought a "GPS for Seniors"..... not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there!

I enjoy a glass of wine each night for its health benefits. The other glasses are for my witty comebacks and flawless dance moves!

I just paid \$100 for a belt that doesn't fit. What a huge waist!

Why did the sea monster eat five ships that were carrying potatoes? No one can eat just one potato ship....

Why are ghosts so bad at lying? Because you can see right through them!

What kind of birds stick together? Velcrows!

Why should you never date a mummy? Because they are too wrapped up in themselves.

Two guys walked into a bar. The third guy ducked.



### **Our Mission:**

**The members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society dedicate themselves to:**

- **Continually seek the joy to be found in singing well in the barbershop style**
- **Promote the benefits of our hobby at every available opportunity**
- **Provide our community with high quality musical entertainment, and**
- **Foster continual musical growth and fellowship among the members**

To be added to our fan list, send your name and email address to [subscribe@newmexichords.groupanizer.com](mailto:subscribe@newmexichords.groupanizer.com)  
To be removed, send your email address to [unsubscribe@newmexichords.groupanizer.com](mailto:unsubscribe@newmexichords.groupanizer.com)