



The

# SERENADER

*Celebrating 72 Years of Barbershop Harmony in Albuquerque  
Chartered September 14, 1952 - Incorporated October 2, 1953*

E-Newsletter

Editor: Fred Green poolvacman@gmail.com ■ May 2025 ■ An Occasional Publication As the Need Arises



## FREE YOUR VOICE

by John Newell, Lead, Realtime

Becoming a better singer involves CHANGE. There is no getting around that. Nearly all of that change must occur at the mental level. The right mental directives will produce appropriate physical responses and vocal freedom. "Willing" your voice to do what you want by sticking to your old thinking is a recipe for tension and pushing, even failure. RELEASING your voice is how you move forward, and it starts by CHANGING your mental approach.

Unless you are at the highest level already, change is not about merely tweaking a few things that you already do. Even the very best singers return to the most basic fundamentals EVERY DAY.

Do not underestimate the power of refreshing - every day - those fundamentals of stance, body alignment, breath, physical looseness, consistent space, etc.

When you are taught an approach or skill that has a positive effect on your voice, it is up to YOU to continue applying it. If you forget and revert to old bad habits, it is because you have not changed your mental approach. Instead, you have limited yourself. Think of it this way: when you achieve something you haven't done before, you do it by thinking differently. Why would you go back to the old way of thinking when you know it is unhelpful?

Changing your mental approach requires repetition. Lots of it. I call it the "unglamorous" part of singing. Because gains are not made in one lesson or rehearsal. Gains are not made on stage. Gains are made in the behind the scenes practices and the "grunt work" you do on your own.

As the superb organist and choral conductor, Graeme Morton, wrote in his foreword for my book: "It is the 'deliberate' in deliberate practice that is important. Watch out. Practice does not (necessarily) make perfect. It may mean that you have just done lots of practice. The aim of musicians, for whom practice is of course a sine qua non, is to gain expertise as well as experience. Therefore our practice needs to be informed, in order to be deliberate. Otherwise you may only be what researchers refer to as an 'experienced non-expert'."

## FREE SINGING TIPS by Yvonne DeBandi

R = Raise the Soft Palate. Creating a larger space inside your mouth by raising the soft palate, or fleshy part of the back of our throat, helps achieve a deeper more well-rounded singing tone.

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### **FREE SINGING TIPS by Nicole LeGault**

R is for Range. You are not born with your range, you can increase it. If you cannot touch your toes, try every day to touch your toes - and you will touch your toes. Your range can be stretched in the same manner (using proper technique!!!) and likewise, if you don't use your full range regularly, it will shrink back.

### **FREE SINGING TIPS by Mick Walsh**

R. (actually, R &R) . Rest and recreation are great for the voice. Try to get a full 8 hours sleep every night and fill at least 20 minutes of your day with cardiovascular work outs. Even if it's just climbing the stairs instead of taking the elevator. Do something to get your heart pushing oxygen around your system. Always consult your doctor before you embark on any vigorous cardio regime.

### **FREE SINGING TIPS by Teri Danz**

R = Riding the Air -- Riding the air is a concept and a set of actions that are extremely helpful for singers. Riding the air means holding up the air in your body so that you are supported, then sending/ directing the sound up and over in a line to a point (imagine) across the room. Part of this is a mental image, part is a body muscle memory stance and the last part is mouth placement (riding along the palate).

**New member, Jo Browning, being presented with her Barbershop Harmony Society certificate by chapter president Richard Grady. Director, Bill Biffle, and Membership VP, Nick Maxwell, are in the background.**



**GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE DOOR!!**

The New MexiChords Proudly Presents  
*The Music of Our Lives*



**Friday May 2, 2025 7 PM**

**Saturday May 3, 2025 2 PM**

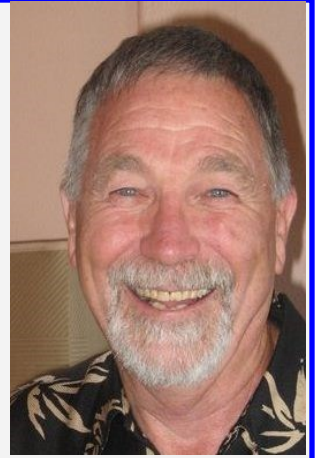
2626 Arizona NE, Albuquerque

St. John's United Methodist Church

Admission: \$20, Kids 6 and Under Free  
Cash, Checks, VISA, AMEX  
and Mastercard Accepted



**FROM OUR DIRECTOR:  
“BIFFLEISMS”**



Hello, folks. I hope that this finds you well and happy.

I think this will find you on the eve of, or the day of, our spring shows. So, a quick word about that. We have a varied program and, with the NOLA style trad jazz band, a unique sound and look for our patrons this year. There's still time to invite some more friends, family, and total strangers to participate in these great shows. Yes, participate, because there will be lots of singalong opportunities in the band's set. You can rest assured that your patrons will leave happier than they arrived – and that they'll thank you for the opportunity you gave them to see and hear the show.

Now for the thanks – I know I'll leave someone out, so please be kind. Of course, huge thanks to Jerry and his team (mostly Mary) for all the great work in producing this show. It's a gargantuan task that they make look easy – to the rest of us, at least.

Thanks to John Taylor and his team for his work coordinating the program advertisements.

Thanks to Ruth and Mary for producing our pre-show shows at Alegria and The Neighborhood. These are simply amazing at showing us what we need to work on, and for giving all of us the performance experience in a smaller, less intimidating environment. Priceless!

Thanks to our wonderful section leaders – Bev, Joe, Ruth, and Doug – for all the work helping you learn your music. They have been – as they always are – simply stellar.

Thanks to Celeste for making the wonderful gift baskets for raffles. Also, many thanks to Pam Parsons for coordinating the ticket and raffle sales.

And finally, thanks to you for putting in the time to learn the new music and for being so willing to try the sometimes seemingly crazy new things I ask of you. Thanks for your faith in me. Without faith, we can't change. With faith we can find a better way and, there, find more joy in singing together.

You guys are simply the best!

Thanks for reading. See you Tuesday, Champs!

Bill

*“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”*

*Plato*



" Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor. "

An E-Flat, a G-Flat and a B-Flat walk into a bar.

Bartender says, "I'm sorry, we don't serve minors"

### The New MexiChords "Lineup" as of 1 May 2025

#### DIRECTOR

Bill Biffle

#### BARITONE

Hudgens, Tom  
Hudson, Hal  
Koury, Ruth  
Randall, Ron  
Romero, Max  
Strohl, Bill

#### BASS

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

#### TENORS

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

#### LEAD

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



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 April!

Arlo Nelson - 26 May

Debbie Green - 27 May



"I love classic rock."

# The New MexiChords Calendar

## Upcoming Chorus Events

### 2025

- 2 May - Spring Concert, 7pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St NE
- 3 May - Spring Concert, 2pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St NE
- 10 Jun - National Anthem (game opener), Isotopes Park, 1601 Avenida Cesar Chavez SE
- 4 Jul - Naturalization Ceremony, 10am, ABQ Convention Center, 401 2nd St NW
- 25-27 Sep - Rocky Mountain District Convention & Contest, Ogden, Utah
- 12 Oct - Balloon Fiesta, approx. 6:15-7:00am, Balloon Fiesta Park
- 5 Dec - Naturalization Ceremony, 10am, ABQ Convention Center, 401 2nd St NW

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 Mexico*

western portions of *South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas*



According to research, 9 out of 10 people don't notice when you replace words with random musical instruments.

"How much to hire a church singing group?"

"You mean a choir?"

"Fine, how much to acquire a church singing group?"

## Your Chuckles for May

KID: "Dad, make me a sandwich!" DAD: "Poof, you're a sandwich!"

A termite walks into a bar and asks, "Is the bar tender here?"

What's the best part about living in Switzerland? I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

What time did the man go to the dentist? Tooth hurt-y.

My wife tried to unlatch our daughter's car seat with one hand and said, "How do one armed mothers do it?" Without missing a beat, I replied, "Single handedly."

My daughter screeched, "Daaaaad, you haven't listened to one word I've said, have you!?" What a strange way to start a conversation ...

If you see a robbery at an Apple Store does that make you an iWitness?

What's Forrest Gump's password? Iforrest1

My friend recently called the incontinence hotline. They asked him if he could hold...

I lost my wife's audio book and now I'll never hear the end of it.

To the person who stole my camouflage jacket and my flip flops ... You can hide, but you can't run!

I used to work the graveyard shift at a zipper factory. It was a fly by night company.

What goes "Clip Clop Bang," "Clip Clop Bang," "Clip Clop Bang"? An Amish drive by...

Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up again!

Arguing with your spouse is like trying to read the Terms of Use for a new service. In the end, you just give up and click "I agree."

I knew a couple who grew fruit trees together. They lived to a ripe old age.



### **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)