



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 ■ October 2025 ■ An Occasional Publication As the Need Arises

DOES SINGING EVERYDAY IMPROVE YOUR SINGING?

by Brock Bisking

Sing every day this week The best thing you can do to improve your singing is to sing regularly. Singing every day strengthens your vocal cords, improves your vocal range and will gradually lead you to better vocal tone. But haven't we heard that there is such a thing as practicing too much? True, and an amateur singer who belts in his car a tune that is out of reach for 2 hours is significantly different from that of a trained vocalist who practices for 2 hours. What about other benefits of singing every day outside of vocal growth? Some of these may surprise you.

To improve your singing voice, it's essential to be able to separate the components of a killer singing voice and unravel that singer's vocal technique. Aside from perhaps avoiding dairy literally right before singing (and conventional wisdom says that consuming anything except water right before singing is a bad idea, burrito pieces in the throat are no nicer than milk). Speaking of vocal warm-ups, this is one of the most important tips when it comes to taking care of your throat and mouth muscles before singing. The art of learning to sing and how to improve your individual singing voice is learning to work with the tools you already have in your toolbox.

Thanks to the Internet, you can learn to sing and improve your singing skills from home through online courses. Being able to sing is a beautiful gift, but many people misunderstand it and consider singing to be out of reach. I don't disagree with the other things, but I think learning to sing is more than practicing good vocal hygiene; obviously, none of this will hurt, but first and foremost, learning to sing is a process of building muscle skills and memory so that you can stay in tune with your body and voice.

FREE SINGING TIPS

by Yvonne DeBandi

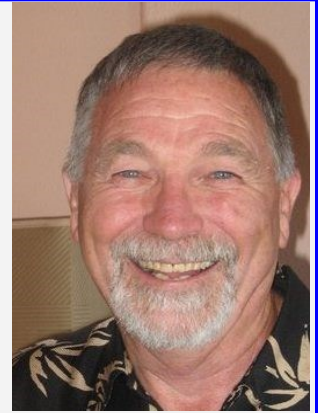
Breathing properly for singing requires the shoulders to remain down and relaxed, not rise with the breath intake. A singer will gain power to their voice by strengthening the muscles in their ribcage and back.

FREE SINGING TIPS

by Nicole LeGault

Breath Control. To skillfully control your breath while singing it is required that you relax most muscles, while strenuously exerting others. This is an exercise in coordination that requires concentration and practice – but like anything you've done a thousand times, it eventually becomes second nature.

**FROM OUR DIRECTOR:
“BIFFLEISMS”**



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

As summer draws to a close (boo), we'll turn our attention more and more to the annual holiday shows (yay). We'll be reprising some of our earlier hits and adding a couple of new things, too. If you want to sing in a quartet for these shows, please get started now. On that point, I think we should have a place to list the names of those who are "Interested in quartetting for the holiday shows" in our weekly Que Pasa. (Doug, could a list be published in the Que Pasa each week?)

It's great to have Jay Lobaton working with us on vocal techniques and warmups whenever he's available. And offering private vocal instruction (PVI) as well. His rates are very reasonable, and I've heard great reviews of his teaching from many of you who have taken a lesson from him. Let's support him in this and increase our individual vocal skills, too. Better singers make better choruses, of course, so call him at (505) 331-0308 for more information and to schedule a lesson. You – and I - will be glad you did!

We're looking at some new songs for next year's spring shows – in addition to Gang That Sang Heart of My Heart and Chattanooga Choo Choo. As always, if you have a tune you'd like to see added to our repertoire, let me know. I can't, of course, promise to include it, but I will give all suggestions careful consideration.

As for upcoming events:

Balloon Fiesta National Anthem	Oct 12, 5:30 AM
Naturalization Ceremony	Dec 5, 10 AM
Alegria performance	Dec 6, 7 PM
Tech rehearsal for shows	Dec 11, 6:30 PM
Show I	Dec 12, 7 PM
Show II	Dec 13, 2 PM (Afterglow to follow at Bill's)
The Neighborhood Performance	Dec 15, 7PM
Cottonwood Mall performance	Dec 26, 2:30 PM

Please note: These are NOT call times, they are start times for the events. As always, for details of all performances consult the Upcoming Events section on Groupanizer or any issue of the Que Pasa.

See you Tuesday, Champs.

Bill



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT CONVENTION & CONTEST

The annual district convention and chorus/quartet competition was held in Ogden, Utah, September 25-27.

Of the nine competing choruses the *Sound of the Rockies* chorus from Denver, CO, placed first with an overall average score of 87.7. This qualifies them for the 2026 International competition, June 28 - July 5, in St. Louis, MO.

Our brothers in harmony, here in Albuquerque, the *Duke City Sound* placed 4th with an overall average score of 78.1. They also won the Plateau IV trophy and the Most Improved Chorus award. BIG Congrats to DCS!!

The *New MexiChords* did not compete this year.

The quartet competition saw a total of 26 contestants over two days of singing foursomes. First place was taken by *Verse* with an overall average score of 79.7.

Our own mixed quartet, *Delta Quadrant*, in their very first competition, placed 21st, with an overall average score of 67.4. Members of the quartet are from both *Duke City Sound* and the *New MexiChords*: Sarah Vertrees (tenor), Xannie Stavert (lead), Tom Hill (bass), Joe Vertrees (baritone). We look forward to more of *Delta Quadrant* as they hone their skills and vocal blend. Congrats to this fine first-time quartet!



AN ARTICLE for You

We can continue to borrow most of our content from other newsletters and the internet, or we can actually have more news from OUR OWN CHAPTER. This, however, requires input from you, our chorus.

Become immortalized with your name on the by-line and an article filled with your own words. There's no limit on what you can say (within the bounds of good taste). It can be a short piece on something you have done or know about. It can be a long piece on something you are passionate about. It can be an installment on a series of articles. It can even be a regular column.

What is your quartet doing? How do you think the chorus is doing? What could the chapter be doing better? Do you have some pictures of us doing something, performing somewhere, enjoying our time together someplace? Can you share some historical perspective about the New MexiChords in word or photos? Are you having fun?

Do you have a funny story? What do you think a prospective member would like to see?

It's YOUR chapter, YOUR chorus, and YOUR newsletter. I'm only the editor... Thanks!!

WOODSHEDDING: THE ORIGINAL BARBERSHOPPING

from ahsow.org

Woodshedding is how barbershop began on a rooftop in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1938.

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodsheddors (AHSOW) was formed in 1977 with the purpose to preserve the skill of woodshedding as an art form within The Barbershop Harmony Society.

Woodshedding is three individual voices (tenor, bari, and bass) creating barbershop harmonies by ear to a Lead's melody, without any written arrangement.

The melody is introduced by the lead so all can become familiar with it, but should not have a well-known arrangement. This art harkens back to over a century ago, to the origins of barbershop quartet singing, where four men would gather (frequently at the local barber shop) and harmonize to the familiar tunes of the day.

Today, more than 1,300 AHSOW members have demonstrated their proficiency at discovering and creating harmonies by ear in Barbershop quartets. Every AHSOW member stands ready to welcome all barbershop singers who wish to participate in this fulfilling activity.



**Being a musician isn't a hobby,
it's a way of life. Take away
music from any musician and
you're left with just a shell of a
human being. They'd be alive,
but not truly living.**

Board of Directors - 2025

*President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership VP
Marketing VP*

*Richard Grady
Mary Turner
John Miracle
Nick Maxwell
Fred Green*

*Music VP
Performance VP
Program VP
Member at Large
Member at Large*

*Richard Grady
Jerry Quintana
Ruth Koury
vacant
vacant*

As we approach the time of year to confirm current and select new members of our Board of Directors for 2026, please consider how YOU can help the chorus become better. Your talents and ideas are welcome and YOU ARE NEEDED.

Contact a current member of the Board and let them know that you are interested in helping.

If you don't have a job in the chapter, ask how you can lend a helping hand.

What skill sets do you have to offer? Can you design and make show sets and props? Are you good at note taking and would make a good secretary? Would you make a good master of ceremonies? Would you like to be the official voice of the chapter as our bulletin editor? Can you proof read the bulletin each month? Can you write effective grant applications? Would you serve on the membership committee? Can you take photographs?

Opportunity is knocking right now. Is it your turn to take a committee position and to help guide our chapter's future? Let us hear from you.

The New MexiChords "Lineup" as of 1 October 2025

DIRECTOR

Bill Biffle

BARITONE

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

BASS

Butler, Larry
Grady, Richard
Green, Fred
Lobaton, Jay
Maxwell, Nick
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
Iwinski, Joe
Lash, Mike
Leverett, Juliette
Miracle, John
Nelson, Arlo
Parsons, Walt
Preston, Judy
Stavert, Xannie
Taylor, Lynn
Turner, Mary
Vertrees, Joe



*"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking, and this
is your captain sünnngiünnng Barbershop."*

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

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

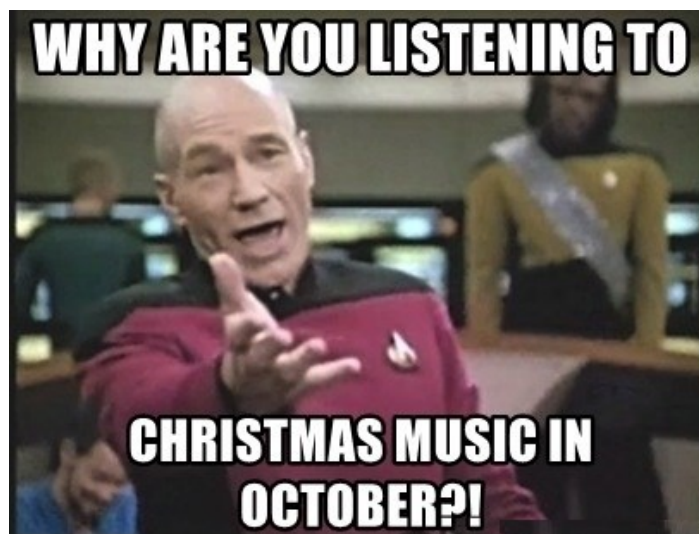
When? Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

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 October!

Joe Iwinski	1 Oct
Jay Lobaton	9 Oct
Nick Maxwell	21 Oct
Judy Preston	24 Oct



The New MexiChords Calendar

Upcoming Chorus Events

2025

- 12 Oct - Balloon Fiesta, approx. 6:15-7:00am, Balloon Fiesta Park
- 5 Dec - Naturalization Ceremony, 10am, ABQ Convention Center, 401 2nd St NW
- 6 Dec - Alegria Performance, 7pm, 901 Cottonwood Cir, Bernalillo
- 11 Dec - Tech Rehearsal (chorus only), 6:30pm, SJMC, 2626 Arizona St NE
- 12 Dec - Holiday Show, 7pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St NE
- 13 Dec - Holiday Show, 2pm, St John's Methodist Church, 2626 Arizona St NE
- 15 Dec - The Neighborhood Performance, 7pm, 900 Loma Colorado Blvd NE, Rio Rancho
- 26 Dec - Giving Machine Performance, 2:30pm, Cottonwood Mall, 10000 Coors Bypass NW

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

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

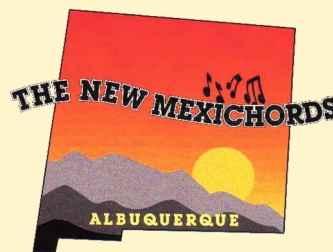
Most of Utah

eastern Idaho

southern Montana

northern New Mexico

western portions of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas



Replaced for being late to
Quartet Practice...

Your Chuckles for October

If you see a director and a tenor in the middle of the road, who would you run over first? The director, business before pleasure.

What do you do if you see a bleeding Baritone running around in your back yard? Stop laughing and shoot again.

How many Leads does it take to change a light bulb? None, they can't get up that high.

Lead Solfege: do, re, mi, me, Me, Not You, ME!!!

What do you do if you run over a Bass? Backup.

How do you get a quartet to sing in tune? Shoot three of them.

What do you call a musician with a college degree? Night manager at McDonalds.

How are trumpet players like pirates? They're both murder on the high C's.

How do you get a trumpet to sound like a French horn? Put your hand in the bell and play a lot of wrong notes.

What happened when the world's tongue-twister champion got arrested? They gave him a tough sentence.

We're renovating the house, and the first floor is going great..... but the second floor is another story.

What state is known for its tiny beverages? Minnesota!

Yesterday, a clown held the door open for me. It was such a nice jester.

What's the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? A hippo is really heavy, and a Zippo is a little lighter.

Shout out to the people who ask what the opposite of "in" is.



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
To be removed, send your email address to unsubscribe@newmexichords.groupanizer.com