



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsman

April 2025 - Issue #68



Sending Love Notes



I'm sitting at my desk, looking at the horrific wind and wondering when my electricity will go out. Did I say.... the WIND? What a great day to GO FLY A KITE!!!! Even this dumb weather is not putting a damper on the pure joy I had in Davis, singing with our Portsman family. The family made up of people that I reflect on; "When Somebody Loves Me". We are much like the feelings in the song; when we love what we are doing, singing, feeling, together, "everything is beautiful". We are there to dry each other's tears and lend comfort in times of need. And we thankfully have each other to rejoice in moments like we had coming off the risers Saturday; knowing that our collective hard work paid off and for all of the other times both inside and outside rehearsal time. I am so proud of us and what we have become and am excited to continue to push ourselves to even greater moments of joy.

As most of you know my personal story, losing my other half, along with most of the rest of my family (thank goodness for my brother Tom, sis-in-law Diane, niece Molly and her fam), it becomes difficult, and lonely, to navigate life on my own. Thank you to my Portsmen family for reaching out, lending a hand, helping me over the bumps. Just like a typical family, we have our moments, temporary conflicts, spirited debates, times of tension. But we also have worked through these moments and, at least in my opinion, have become stronger for it. It is showing in our commitment to singing, rehearsing, performing and to each other. Ho detto in Italiano, Il nostro futuro Luminoso ed entusiasmante continua! Sending love notes...

Nance



Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

I have never been happier with the Portsmen going to contest. It was a fantastic weekend—seeing others perform, interacting with them, and witnessing each of you realize what is possible. We told a story that the audience loved hearing and shared music they had never heard before. I've never felt that level of performance from the Portsmen before.

Now, here we are again, turning the page after the contest cycle. It's not just about selecting music, developing a plan, and working toward the event; there's also an emotional cycle that we each navigate. It's a dynamic, intense journey that ebbs and flows through highs and lows, where we experience the thrill of improving performances and the frustrations of any mistakes.

In a chorus contest, we experience:

1. **Anticipation:** Before the contest, there's that nervous excitement as we prepare for and hope our hard work will pay off.
2. **Performance Anxiety:** Stepping on stage can bring nerves as we wonder if we'll execute our plan.
3. **Team Camaraderie:** We feel a deep sense of connection as we harmonize together, providing reassurance and emotional support to one another.
4. **Pride:** When the performance goes well, there's immense pride in our collective achievement, not just in our individual contributions, but as a team.
5. **Disappointment or Frustration:** Despite successes, there's always the knowledge that we didn't quite achieve perfection—whether it's missing a note, not hitting a perfect harmony, or feeling like we didn't fully connect with the audience. This can lead to feelings of regret.
6. **Hope and Resilience:** But after setbacks, there's collective hope. We come together stronger, determined to do better next time.
7. **Euphoria or Relief:** After the performance, there's a surge of joy, knowing we gave our best effort in that moment.

Competing is as much about managing these emotional cycles as it is about the musical performance itself. After returning from the "mountain top" experience, where the emotional rollercoaster has come to an end, we may find the emotional aftermath complex

and unpredictable. The sense of accomplishment or loss can linger, and feelings may ebb and flow in surprising ways. And there's always the question: "What's next?"

1. **Post-Competition Blues:** After reaching that high point, returning to normal life can feel deflating. All the attention was on every note, and now, with the adrenaline slowing down, everything feels distant. The focus of the contest fades, and a bit of withdrawal can follow.
2. **Deeper Bonds and Connections:** The bonds we formed during this intense experience don't disappear. We shared something special, and this can create long-lasting friendships and a renewed sense of camaraderie within the chorus. Even as life returns to its normal pace, we can trust that we'll find our way back to that place together again.
3. **The Drive to Improve:** Let's celebrate the improvements and use both the positives and the lessons learned to fuel our desire to keep improving. Being evaluated helps us see where we need to grow, and where we've succeeded. We'll take those lessons and channel them into our next performances, continuing to practice, refine our skills, and strive for even better results.
4. **Gratitude for the Journey:** The experience of working together, facing challenges, and creating something beautiful is something special. Let's appreciate the growth—not just musically, but emotionally and socially—that comes from stepping outside of our comfort zones and taking on the challenge of competition.
5. **A New Perspective on Success and Failure:** Winning the AA Championship is sweet, but it's the journey—the learning, the growth—that's most important. Sometimes we come up short of expectations, but the most valuable things are learning about ourselves, each other, and the art of barbershop singing. The trophy doesn't define us.
6. **Planning the Next Step:** Competition is just one chapter. It's a blip on the radar. What's next? Let the feedback from this contest help guide our future direction, whether it's the next competition, our next concert, or simply artistic choices in rehearsal. For most of us, being a Portsmen isn't about the contest cycle; it's about living the lifestyle that allows us to create magical musical experiences each week.

The return from this intense experience is about integrating everything we've learned and experienced into the next phase of our journey. It's a balancing act—celebrating what we've achieved and preparing for what's ahead, both emotionally and artistically. The mountain top, after all, is just a view that inspires future climbs.



April Birthday Celebrations

Willys Nitschke – 4/1

Regina Brown – 4/23

Royal Flush



Royal Flush had an amazing rehearsal after Division in Davis. We hadn't had a rehearsal in a great while. It was amazing to ring some chords again. We are working on some new music and are excited to debut them in the Portsmen Spring Show in May. Hope to see you there!

Tune Struck

With the Chorus getting ready for contest and Bill having lots of other things happening in life, the quartet has been fairly quiet. We continue to develop our repertoire to complete a twenty-minute performance set, with some other songs thrown in for special ideas.

Four Heaven's Sake

A Barbershop Quartet

John Hunt

Steve Hund

Dave Harmon

Willys Nitschke

UPDATE: 3-25-25

Four Heaven's Sake is the newest quartet consisting of chapter members of the Stockton Portsmen Chorus. We decided to get together to see if we could get our voices to blend on December 17, 2024. John Hunt agreed to learn tenor for a bevy of Pole Cat songs and off we went. Then, preplanned vacations and other life events happened. We have met as a trio for about one-third of our practices. Although Nancy Hennefer filled in for Dave Harmon when he went on vacation in February before the Novice Contest. Also, Nancy graciously coached us up for the Contest when Dave got back. The experience of competing was a bit unsettling but we each gained valuable feedback and were encouraged enough to officially register as a quartet with the BHS so we could compete in the Division Convention at Davis. It is not that difficult to register as a quartet nor very expensive (\$72 and no cost to sign up to compete). We fully intended to be ready to compete, but life circumstances sometimes get in the way of plans. So, we withdrew since we have not been able to practice as a foursome. Our next known opportunity is the Chapter Show in May. We are working on *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* from Lion King. Can't wait to get us all together sometime. It sounds pretty good as a trio. It's been great to get to know each other! Anyone who enjoys singing can form a quartet. You decide how fast you want to go. The show could be an easy way to put your toe in the water and see if you want to jump in. We did!

John, Steve, Dave and Willys

The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

Proudly Presents

our 68th Annual Show

THE **MAGIC** OF **Disney**
IN **BARBERSHOP HARMONY**



Enjoy your favorite Disney songs
sung in 4-part harmony!

Special Guests: Artistic License!



Saturday, May 10th, 2025 @ 2:30 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
808 W. Porter Ave, Stockton CA

Tickets: \$20 | Kids 12 and Under Free
209-881-SING(7464) | www.StocktonPortsmen.org

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Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden
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Dave and Sandy Harmon
- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Tom and Diane Hofsommer
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton
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Thomas Lauzz

Tired of Singing Alone?

Great! Come sing 4-Part Harmony with the **Stockton Portsman**!

Are You a **Bass**, **Baritone**, **Lead**, or **Tenor**?



Discover **your** voice part and make some friends!

🎵 Join Our Mixed Chorus – All Voices Welcome! 🎵

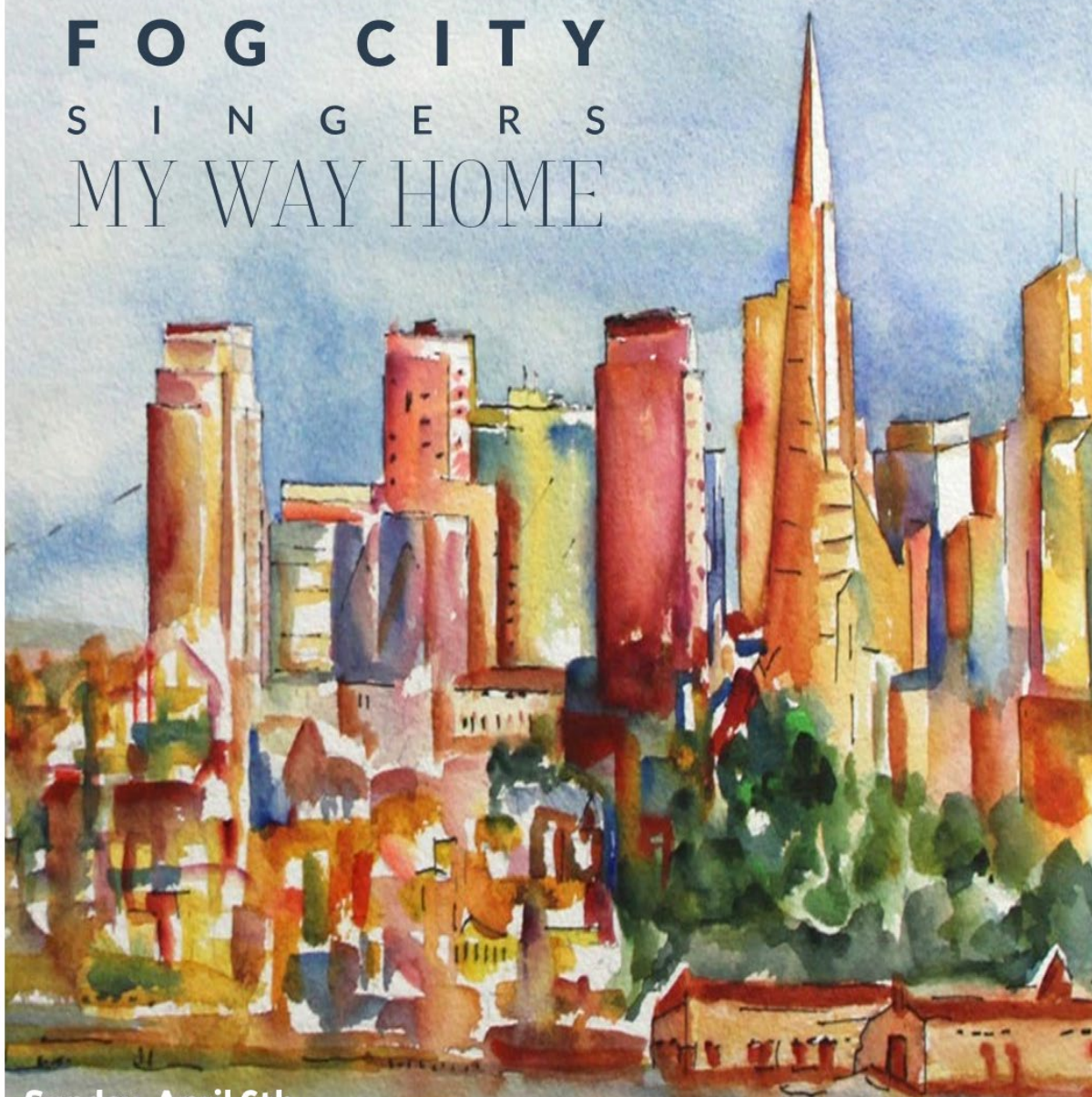
Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or just love to sing, we invite you to join our local chorus!
No prior experience required—we welcome singers of all skill levels.

This year, we're learning exciting new songs and preparing for our Disney-themed show in May 2025. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday night from 6 pm to 8 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 808 W. Porter Ave, Stockton.

Come visit us on a Tuesday night for a free trial—no obligation to commit!
If you enjoy singing but haven't found a place to do so confidently and safely, you're not alone. We'll sing alongside you, supporting each other every step of the way.

We'd love to welcome you to our chorus family!

— T H E —
F O G C I T Y
S I N G E R S
MY WAY HOME



Sunday, April 6th

Redwood City, St. Peter's, 2:30pm

Thursday, April 10th

San Francisco, St. Mark's, 7:30pm

Tickets at:

fogcitysingers.com



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FEATURING

THE MIGHTY OAK CHORUS
NEVER TOO LATE
DREAMLINE
440
SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
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2025**

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VISALIA, CA 93277



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**\$15 PER PERSON
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER
ARE FREE**



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After Hours
2018 BHS International Gold Medalists



Artistic License
BHS Top 10 International Quartet



MAY 17, 2025

3:00 PM

ROSEMONT HIGH SCHOOL

9594 KIEFER BLVD, SACRAMENTO, CA 95827

PHONE INQUIRIES: 916.907.1938

WWW.VOICESOFCALIFORNIA.ORG



Weekly Chapter Meetings:

Location: Zion Lutheran Church – 808 W Porter Avenue (Stockton, CA)

Tuesdays: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM (Grace Hall)

VLO: 8:00 PM – 8:30 PM (except board meeting nights)

(Please verify for location of rehearsal as it may change)

See calendar for up-to-date information:

[Click here to access the Stockton Portsman Calendar](#)

Website:

<http://www.stocktonportsmen.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456>



Directions:

- From Pacific Avenue go west on Porter Way, turn south on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.
- From Pershing Avenue go east on W. Swain Road, turn north on Gettysburg Pl then turn east into Zion Lutheran Church parking lot.

Mission Statement:

Provide the greater Stockton area with quality Barbershop chorus and quartet music and wholesome family entertainment, while encouraging every individual of good character who loves to sing the opportunity to find their place with us.

Hire Us:

Book us for your next event:

- Community Concerts
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Grand Openings
- Holiday Tree Lightings
- Memorial Services
- National Anthem
- Singing Valentines
- Summer Concerts

Performance times usually range from 20 to 40 minutes but can be adjusted up or down to fit your specific program. Contact us by email or phone below for a proposal:

Info@StocktonPortsmen.org or Phone **(209) 881-SING (7464)**

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 4/5 Barbary Coast Show (Redwood City, CA)
- 4/9 Barbary Coast Show (San Francisco, CA)
- 4/26 Mighty Oak Chorus Show (Visalia, CA)
- 5/2-5/4 2025 FWD Arizona Division Convention (Phoenix, AZ)
- **5/10 Stockton Portsmen Spring Show (Stockton, CA)**
- 5/17 California Delta Show (Sacramento, CA)
- 5/26 Memorial Day Service at Cherokee Memorial (Lodi, CA)
[Click link for details for Cherokee Memorial](#)
- 6/29-7/6 2025 BHS International Convention (Denver, CO)
- 10/24-10/26 FWD Youth Harmony Camp
- **10/9-10/12 2025 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, CA)**

Barbershop Links:

- Barbershop Harmony Society <http://www.barbershop.org/>
- Far Western District <https://www.farwesterndistrict.org/>
- Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association <https://www.mixedbarbershop.org/>
- Voices of California (VoCal) <http://voicesofcalifornia.org/>