



The Captain's Log

Newsletter of the Stockton Portsmen

May 2025 - Issue #69

Sending Love Notes



It cannot possibly be May already! Must be the Disney Magic.....after all, Disneyland and I share the same birthday in July (well, 4 days apart!). But dang, how can I be as old as Disneyland????? Sigh....

As we look forward to our Spring Show on May 10th, I think I can speak for, well, at least myself, that it WILL take some Disney magic to get all those words memorized! This won't be the first time that I'm feeling like we are a bit behind, but with Bill's usual optimistic push, we may just pull it off! I know we will all continue to "cram" and show up for the extra rehearsals.... Let's Do This!

I spent yesterday visiting various Senior Housing campuses where we have performed. At each of the 6 stops, I left an invite to our show along with complementary tickets. As I pondered the thought of giving away 60 tickets and knowing there probably be no financial gain from it, I was reminded of WHY we do what we do as a chorus. It is not to be a "for profit, non-profit" nor a chorus that screams COMPETITION, but rather a group of like-minded people who love to ring chords and share them with our community. A "family" that share in the delight of putting our voices together as a team but knowing that EVERY....SINGLE...ONE...OF....US is a vital member of this team. And if even 10% of those complimentary tickets get used, it will have been worth it. We may just gain some new fans, and possibly a new voice or two.

As this year is flying by, I would like each of us to think about and remember our own value being a Portsmen. What have you been able to contribute? Is learning the music and showing up to rehearsals the thing you can manage right now? Are you singing in a quartet? Have you volunteered to act as a Board Member? Are you doing things outside of rehearsal time to enhance our existence and your own self-worth? We all have such diverse life experiences, expectations and availabilities that it may be easy to get complacent with our roles. My challenge to you is to keep pushing yourself, consider running for an office, show up for riser set ups, pass out our business cards, give serious thought NOW about heading to Hawaii in 2026 with FWD, practice your music! It's ALL MAGIC!

Sending Love Notes,

Nance



May Birthday Celebrations

Dave Harmon – 5/20

Musical Director's Message:

By Bill Litz

How to Be a Better Musician (and a Decent Human While You're At It)

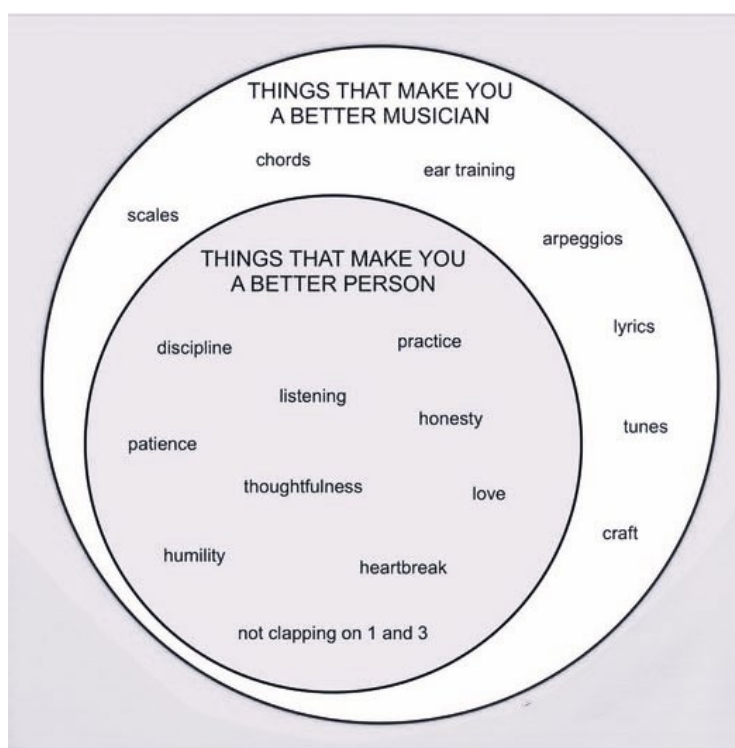
This month, let's talk about something that hits a little deeper than tuning the tag or nailing choreo on that tricky uptune ending. Sure, we're all here to make great music—but if we're honest, the journey to becoming a better singer often runs right alongside becoming a better human. And it turns out, the two go hand in hand (or note in note, if you will).

Let's start with the basics:

discipline gets you to rehearsal on time while still learning your part from that warbly old learning track on the drive over.

Patience is how we survive singing the same song for hours at a time without tossing a pitch pipe at someone - especially the one guy in the back row who *still* can't find the downbeat. And **humility**?

That's what keeps us open to feedback (even when it comes with a raised eyebrow from the bass section).



Listening is everything—whether it's tuning that pesky chord or hearing your lead without stomping all over them. **Thoughtfulness** shows up in a well-placed breath, a clean cutoff, or helping a newer member learn their part without making them feel like they're in a musical interrogation. **Practice**—yes, even outside of rehearsal, keeps us sharp. Show up knowing your notes. Practice your vowels. Practice not being annoying. And **honesty**, well, that's just knowing when you were the one who scooped the note and being okay with owning it.

Don't forget the big ones: **love** and **heartbreak**. Love fuels the music. Love the music, love the people, love the process—even when it involves endless discussions about vowel targets and hand placement. Heartbreak sneaks into barbershop too. Maybe a quartet breaks up. Maybe you let that trophy slip away. Maybe you miss someone who used to sing beside you. Heartbreak deepens your sound. It adds weight to the ballads and bite to the uptunes. You can hear when someone's singing from experience, and it hits differently. And please—for the rhythm's sake—**don't clap on 1 and 3**. Just don't. If you don't know why, ask a baritone. Feel the groove. Respect the backbeat. If you must clap, make it musical. Better yet, snap like a smooth baritone on a swing tag.

Now, for the singers in the house (ahem, that's all of us), let's not forget the *craft*. As a singer, scales and arpeggios might not sound sexy—but they are absolutely your best friends. Want to hit that high G without sounding like a goose in a wind tunnel? **Scales**. Want your runs to sound intentional and not like a slip on a wet sidewalk? **Arpeggios**. **Chords**? That's the whole dang point of barbershop—get to know them inside and out. Understand how your part fits. Hear the overtone, chase it down, and lock it in like your life depends on it. Learn where your part fits, and how to adjust when the ring isn't ringing. Sharpen your **ear** so you can tell the difference between “that's pretty good” and “did anyone else feel that in their *spine*?”

And don't sleep on **lyrics** and **tunes**—we're storytellers, not just note robots. Deliver the words with heart, shape the phrases with intention, and let the music do more than just exist—make it *move* people. Don't just mumble your way through a verse. Lyrics matter. They're not just placeholders between chords. Know what you're singing about. Feel it. Tell a story. Your audience will hear it when it's real. That's where the real magic is.

Finally, **craft**. Craft is what separates singers from artists. It's how you shape a phrase, choose a breath, and deliver a tag that makes the room go silent before they erupt in applause. It's care, skill, and a deep love for what you do.

So, as you head into this next month of rehearsals as we prepare for performances, ask yourself: Am I just hitting notes, or am I also lifting the room? Be the kind of singer people want to harmonize with—on stage and off.

Keep ringing those chords—and remember, 2 and 4 are your friends.

Tune Struck

Nothing new in the Tune Struck Quartet calendar, but the refining of our repertoire. We are looking forward to our performance on the Chapter Show.

Four Heaven's Sake

A Barbershop Quartet

John Hunt

Steve Fund

Dave Harmon

Willys Nitschke

UPDATE: 4-24-25

Four Heaven's Sake is the newest quartet consisting of chapter members of the Stockton Portsmen Chorus. We finally were able to get our calendars together and meet as a foursome on April 8, 2025, right after the Portsmen Chorus' luncheon engagement at First Baptist Church in Stockton, and before Portsmen Chorus rehearsal. We were rusty but still encouraged enough to follow through on a tentative plan. We were all matching teal shirts. We had a song to sing. We had some time. The one thing missing was the audience. So, we ran over to Brookdale assisted living and sang to Willys' mother, Dorothy and her next-door neighbor and friend of decades, Susan. We don't know... or really care for that matter... whether it was the tight fit in the corridor outside their rooms, or the tightness of the chords that we sang, but we sounded pretty darn good. They appreciated it and that's all that really matters. Also, we had fun.

Life events again precluded practice the next week. So, we met again two weeks later. Two practices in the same month!! That's all it takes to polish up a small repertoire. My pastor in a recent sermon defined the word "hope" as the anticipation of JOY. We HOPE we get consistent practice time as a quartet; and that we are able to share it (songs and joy) with others! We also HOPE you grab a few other people and give it a try!! John, Steve, Dave and Willys - Four Heaven's Sake!

The Stockton Portsmen Barbershop Chorus

Proudly Presents

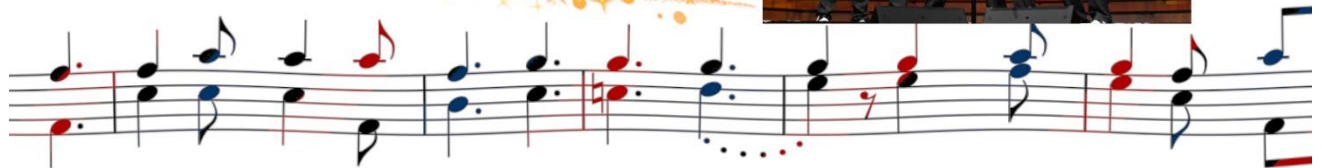
our 68th Annual Show

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

Thank you to our sponsors!!!

Angie Rogan, Akalia and Staff

- Van Ruiten Winery, Lodi

Betsy Smith - Velvet Grill Creamery, Lodi

Christal - Corner Scone Bakery, Lodi

Seth - Lodi Beer Co, Lodi

Avenue Grill, Lodi

Jennifer - Airport Café, Acampo

Joe Fiori - Fiori's Butcher Shoppe & Deli,
Lodi

Papapavlo's Stockton/Lodi

Bon Appetite, Lodi

Darlene - The Hollywood Café, Lodi

Dee - De Vinci's, Lodi

Thai Spices, Lodi

Smack Pie Pizza, Lodi

Arroyos Mexican Café, Stockton

Genoa Bakery, Stockton

Buds Seafood, Stockton

Whirlows, Stockton

DeVega Brothers, Stockton

Christine Robles - Red Lobster, Stockton

Michael Gilliland

- La Mesa a Mexican Kitchen. Stockton

Big Belly Deli

Cindy Burke - Burke's Family Restaurant

The Mud Mill, Lodi

Mark Armstrong - Lodi Grape Festival

Nikki Burgess - The Dermal Clinic, Lodi

Yvonne Holland - Dermal Clinic, Lodi

Richard Lund and Patsy Miller

Lori Makabe

Mark Huntley

Gary Floyd - Tokay A's Model A Club

Arecelli - Stockton Civic Theater,
Stockton

Judy - Minerva's Furniture, Lodi

Liana Roman - Now and Zen Yoga, Lodi

Castle Oaks Golf, Lone

Brenda Patterson - A Cut Above, Lodi

Planet Fitness, Stockton

Asia - Arthur Murray Dance Studio,
Stockton

Mr Alex Munro - Hilton Stockton

Bob Weisenberg

- Woodbridge Uncorked, Woodbridge

Mangal Singh - Clements Ridge Produce
and Bakery

Zoom Car Wash, Stockton

Regina Brown - Member: Stockton
Portsmen

Kathy Duran - Voila Gifts and Home
Decor, Lodi

Denise Solari - SDS Designs

Rhoda Legaspi - Baked with Love

Robert Verhines

Gerald Garfield - Food for Less, Stockton

Gary Long - Gary Longs Jewelry,
Stockton

Made in Amador, Sutter Creek

BedBug on Main, Lone

Hotel Sutter Restaurant, Sutter Creek
Monarch, Lone

Sue Kenmostu

Y Acosta - Acosta Construction, Lodi

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Bill and Audrey Churchill

Dr Mike Pontius

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- Raymond James Financial Services,
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Robert and Rosemarie Keller
Fritz and Phyllis Grupe
Ron and Kris Katzakian
Ken and Nancy Mullen
Star Heers
Carol Holt Bedell
Daniel Bernick - Sacramento Artist
Daniel Meza - F&M Bank, Lodi
Sandy - House of Clocks, Lodi
Brain Synowicki - Synowicki's Jewel Box,
Lodi
Sandy Padgett - La Fleurette Garden
Décor, Lodi
University of the Pacific
Dave and Sandy Harmon
- Member: Stockton Portsmen
Tom and Diane Hofsommer
Nancy Hennefer - Member: Stockton
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Colette Allen
Carol Simms
Susan Atkins- Member: Stockton
Portsmen

William Litz- Member: Stockton
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Kathryn Olsen
Anonymous
Willys Nitschke - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Kitty Harmon - Member: Stockton
Portsmen
Mahesh Ranchod
Jami Howland
Thomas Lauzz

Tired of Singing Alone?

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

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

Tenor Lead

The old songs, the old songs, good old song for me.

Bari Bass

Middle C

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[www.StocktonPortsman.org](#)

[info@StocktonPortsman.org](#)

209-881-SING (7464)

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!

VOICES OF CALIFORNIA PRESENTS



Singin' & Swingin'



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





*Presents The Annual Bean Feed
A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest*



Wednesday, June, 11th 6pm

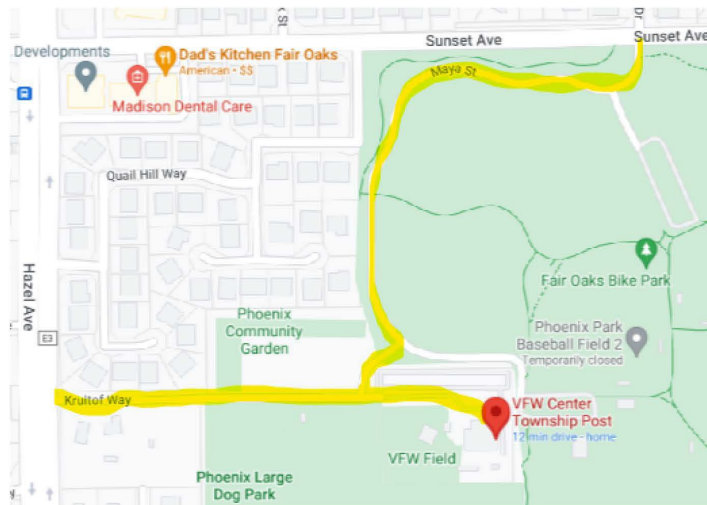
At The VFW in Fair Oaks

8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Celebrating Over 30 Years of

Bean Feeds and Barbershop Quartet Contests

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door



Folsom Harmony Express
Non-profit Organization

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.

Weekly Chapter Meetings:

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

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

VLQ: 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:

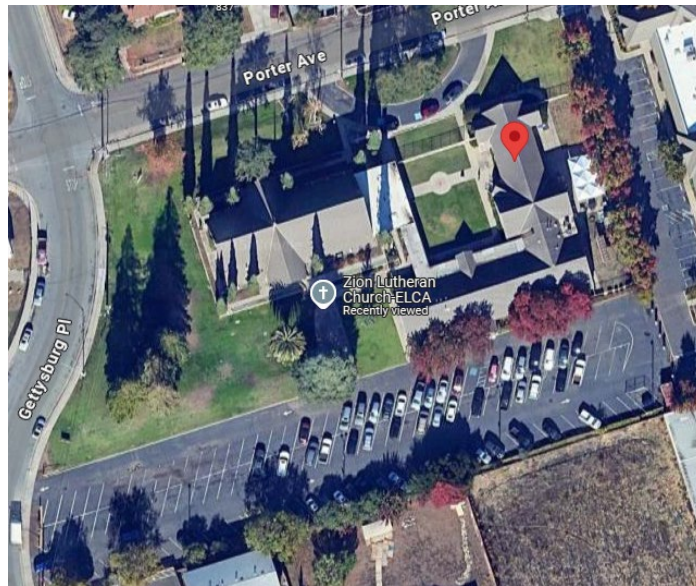
[Click here to access the Stockton Portsmen Calendar](#)

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.

Hire Us:

Book us for your next event:

Contact us by email or phone below for a proposal:

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

- Community Concerts
- Fairs
- Festivals
- Grand Openings
- Holiday Tree Lightings/Carols
- Memorial Services
- National Anthems
- 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.

****SAVE THE DATE****

- 5/2-5/4 2025 FWD Arizona Division Convention (Phoenix, AZ)
- **5/10 Stockton Portsmen Spring Show (Stockton, CA)**
- **5/13 Stockton Portsmen Guest Night (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](#)
- 6/11 Folsom Harmony Express Presents The Annual Bean Feed A Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest (Fair Oaks, CA)
- 6/29-7/6 2025 BHS International Convention (Denver, CO)
- **7/2 Celebrate America (Lodi, CA)**
- 10/24-10/26 FWD Youth Harmony Camp
- **10/9-10/12 2025 FWD Fall Convention (Fresno, CA)**
- **12/13 Stockton Portsmen Holiday Show (Stockton, 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/>