



# Swipes & Tags

The official Newsletter of the Sacramento Capitolaire, Sacramento, California  
Chapter of the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
A proud member of PROBE and Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce

**69 years of Barbershop Singing in Sacramento**

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**Spring 2015**

## Annual Spring show is “Happy Birthday, Mr. Marconi”



The Capitolaire entertain during their annual spring show, “Happy Birthday, Mr. Marconi”, at Christ Community Church in Carmichael on April 25. **Ray Rhymer** and **Dan Warschauer** directed the chorus. Guest performers included TopCats (VoCal), Moment-OH (SA), Antelope High School Chamber Choir and “Jubilation”, Christ Community Church Hand Bell Choir. **Dave Young** was the show chair. **Larry Womac** narrated. Several hundred people enjoyed the show. April 25 is the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi who invented the radio. An afterglow was held following the concert at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where the entertainers, Capitolaire and their guests sang, enjoyed a libation and dinner.

### Spring Show Reflections by Chair Dave Young!

How’s that old Doris Day song go? “The party’s over. It’s time to call it a day...” Well, that’s how I feel Now that the April Spring Show is over. All of us were so focused on the show for the weeks prior. And it was great! But now that the harmonic chords no longer fill the rafters and the hall is empty, what’s a

**The Sacramento Capitolaire meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael. Check out our website [www.capitolaire.org](http://www.capitolaire.org) or phone (888) 877-9806.**

Barbershopper to do? Oh...I know, we keep on singing!!! For friends, family-anywhere we can. Every where we can.

Thanks for the help of some good friends, the show had something for everyone. Our own Capitolaires really sang well. I asked my daughter if she enjoyed our music and did she like Larry's deep resonant voice doing the narrations. She replied "Well, he really did have a great voice." That response only answered half of the question. Fortunately many others who were at the show finished answering the question and assured us our music was outstanding.

The audience was also treated to the talents of two super quartets - TopCats and Moment-Oh. Close harmonies, high energy, and fun tunes showcased the Barbershop sound at its best. And the Antelope High School Choir surprised us all with their varied selections and great sound. Their soloists-wow! The Bell Choir was an unexpected treat-we were all amazed at the precision and strength it takes to make such an interesting and unique sound.

Like a duck on the lake, what appeared to be a smooth operation on the surface had some serious paddling going on beneath. The success of the show can be directly attributed to the work of those 'behind the scenes' folks. Chorus members who sold tickets and advertising and passed out flyers, those who kept track of the ticket and ad sales, those who designed the layout of the flyer and programs, the volunteers who greeted our guests at the doors, the muscles who moved the risers-the show would not have been a success without them. Nor can we minimize the hard work of the show committee, the music team, the Board and our Directors. Collectively, a great bunch of folks. Collectively, responsible for a great show. Thanks!!!

## Business Community Sing Out

In February, twenty one Capitolaires sang under the direction of **Ray Rhymer** and **Dan Warschauer** during the R.F. Biodics (Natomas) Open House. Thank you **Steve Kennedy** for asking us to sing. Congratulations on your company's new work site.





## New Member Profile

**Mike Aita** is married and has three sons and two grandchildren. He lived and attended school in Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Nilas, and Los Angeles, CA. Mike graduated from high school in 1965 and from college in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He joined the Army and was honorably discharged in 1973.

Mike is retired from the US Department of the Defense where he worked in the aerospace industry and the US Department of the Air Force in the development of the automated cost models. His community service includes helping a blind person in Placer County.

Mike sings Tenor. He sang for sixteen years with Nevada/Placer and Folsom chapters before joining the Sacramento Capitolaire this year. He likes singing with the Capitolaire-"a life of loving service for my fellow men and women in my daily living."

*Good to have you join us on our musical journey, Mike!*

## Yale University Whiffenpoofs, 1967



**Norman Hile** (pictured in front row third from the right) recently joined the Capitolaire. He sang with the Whiffenpoofs in 1967. Our new song for March is the Whiffenpoof Song. *Norm said "the 1967 Whiffenpoofs have an annual reunion and in two years the group will celebrate 50 year anniversary."*



## Whiffenpoof Song

*“To the tables down at Mory’s, to the place where Louis dwells  
to the dear old Temple Bar we love so well  
sing the Whiffenpoofs assembled, with their glasses raised on high  
and the magic of their singing casts a spell.”*

The origins of the Whiffenpoof Song can be traced to a 1907 winter trip by the Yale Glee Club when two of the group’s founding members created a humorous adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling poem, “Gentleman Rankers.” Upon the conclusion of the song’s premiere at Mory’s Temple Bar, the singers declared it their anthem, “to be sung at every meeting, reverently standing.” In the hundred years since, each class of Whiffenpoofs has sung the Whiffenpoof Song at the end of every concert as a celebration of brotherhood and tradition. The song has been recorded by Rudy Vallee, Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Louis Armstrong, and countless others. *(This excerpt taken from the website: Whiffenpoofs of Yale-About the Whiffenpoofs)*



This is the second year that the Capitolairens have participated in the Sacramento Region’s Big Day of Giving. Thirteen donors contributed \$2,655 to the Capitolairens on May 5, 2015 which will be enhanced with matching funds. This year 529 charities raised \$5,613,799.

## Noteworthy comments from our Co-Director Ray Rhymer



My how time flies. August 20, 2013 was my first day as your Music Director and now almost two years has passed. Although life has its twists and turns, my constant thrust has been to educate. As our understanding of the fundamentals of singing improves, so will our singing and our performances. **Dan Warschauer** joined us as Co-Director and he brings additional education as well as other talents.

It’s working. Sacramento scored higher in the NE Division Contest in March than in recent times and received an invitation to perform in the Far Western Fall Final Contest in Mesa, AZ (the financial burden was significant enough to decline). The April 25 show was certainly enjoyed by our audience. The Capitolairens presented a good performance. The mix of entertainment with male and female quartets (TopCat and Moment-OH), the CCC bell choir, and the Antelope High School Chamber Choir was genuinely appreciated. And, the show was a significant financial success with both ticket and ad sales contributing.

We just completed a good presentation at the Harris Center, June 13, as a part of the greater Sacramento Choral Festival *SacSings*. The acoustics in that theater are wonderful, both for the performer and the audience. Stop to consider the range of our show: up tunes with gusto, ballads

with feeling, easy beats that bring back memories, a bit of choreography, and a bite of slap stick comedy wherein we have some fun with history which allows the audience to laugh with us and at us. The performance was fast moving, used little snippets of narration, and kept the audience attention and interest.

Be it known that Dan and I have very similar objectives and work well together, e.g., we prepared a music plan through August 2016 and presented it to the Music Team. Included are the monthly introduction of new songs over the next year (omitting July and December), coaching sessions, Polar Express, participation in the 2016 NE Division Contest (location to TBD), a spring show, and continuing education. There will be chorus and CAPS performances during the journey, of course, e.g. we substitute for the Celtic Cross Church choir on June 28.

It cannot be emphasized enough that learning (read that as getting command of) words and notes to our songs is vital to our performances. Reality check: there is a cause and effect relationship between getting command of the words and notes and performing proficiency –the better we’ve “got’em”, the better our performance. You might ask yourself the question: “Why should I want to sing for an audience if I don’t have command of the words and notes?” Hmmmmm?

I think the Sacramento Chapter is “on a roll”. Let’s keep it rolling. Simply said, we Barbershoppers just feel better and enjoy our hobby more when we sing and perform better.

It is OK to Encourage, Enjoy, Enthuse, and Excite...Ray

take note



Clark Abrahamson, Vice President Music & Performance

Here’s what our promo for Sac Sings! Says, in part:

“The Sacramento Capitolaires Chorus and Quartets have been a proud Sacramento institution since 1946. Our tagline is *Where Singing Happens!* An apt description, since our members experience a multi generation, multi genre spectrum of Men’s Barbershop-style a cappella ensemble singing (chorus, quartets, octets), music theory and voice improvement sessions, and, of course, a liberal dose of informal singing and social interaction. Our aim is to sing well, sing often, delight our audiences and members, and most of all, have fun!”

That seems to me to sum it up pretty well, to wit:

**1. “A proud Sacramento Institution since 1946”**

We’ve been here for almost seventy years! That in itself should make us proud, eh? Our founder, Joe Trousdale was an exceptional guy-he taught us to be a group who made good music, got out into the community frequently, and perhaps most importantly, not ever take ourselves too seriously.

2. **“Where Singing Happens!”**

Our tagline was a product of a Marketing/PR/Membership meeting **Joe Samora** held each month – seems like it was around 5 years ago. We were talking about developing a tagline that would become part of our logo, suggesting that visiting us would be a satisfying experience for men who love to sing. The concept we kept coming back to was a “happening event”. **Dave Jones**, our PR guy at the time, was the one who suggested “Where Singing Happens!” – and bingo! – it’s been our tagline ever since.

3. **“Our members experience a multi generation, multi genre spectrum of Men’s Barbershop-style a cappella ensemble singing (chorus, quartets, octets), music theory and voice improvement sessions, and, of course, a liberal dose of informal singing and social interaction.”**

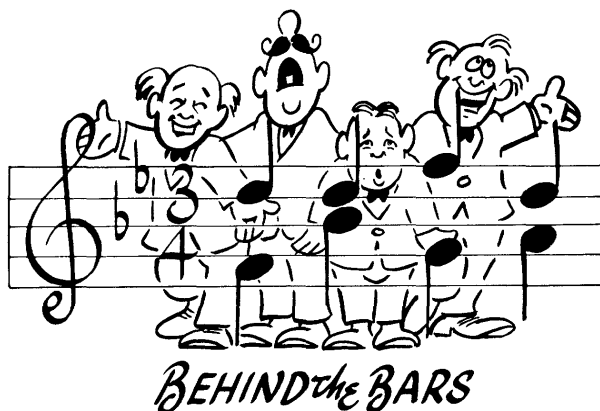
When we “re-formed” the Capitolaires after an unsuccessful merger attempt with Voices of California (thank God!), we polled our remaining members and decided that the “New Capitolaires” would strive to be a different type of chapter than existing chapters. We decided that we definitely did not want to adopt the intensity and commitment of VoCal (those who did, not surprisingly, did join VoCal – with our blessings). Neither did we feel we wanted to adopt what we saw as the ultra laid-back (albeit successful) Folsom Harmony Express model. The model we adopted was one that provided for our members a full mix of barbershop musical experiences, one of which was the chorus rehearsal, which we agreed, would consume roughly half of the night.

4. **“Our aim is to sing well, sing often, delight our audiences and members, and most of all, have fun!”**

Of course we want to sing well and to constantly improve. It’s inherent in the human psyche, I think too, we want to improve. If we ask Barbershoppers what they want most, you can bet that one of the top responses is “to improve our singing”. It seems to me that we’re on track, with the help of Ray and Dan, to do exactly that. Likewise, we’re constantly looking for opportunities to perform – whether they be shows, paid performances, or unpaid “charitable” performances – doesn’t matter – we just want to sing and get known in the community. As to delighting our audiences – we do. We’re doubtless much more critical of ourselves than the audience perceives. Can we be more entertaining? Of course – that’s what all performers want to do! Do we delight our members? We’d better, because they’ll leave if we don’t. Judging from the number of members who have left since our “rebirth”, we’re doing a good job of keeping our members involved and happy.

So – I’d hope you’d constantly ask the questions posed at the top of this article, consider what comes thereafter, and get and stay involved in the continued success of the Capitolaires. Congratulations to all of us!

## Harmonizing For Good Health



It's been said that music heals the heart. But can it promote healthy aging? To find out, cognitive neuroscientist Julene K. Johnson is studying health changes in choir members at 12 senior centers in San Francisco.

The professor at the University of California in Francisco has already studied choruses in Finland and found an improved quality of life among older choir members. Another study at Georgetown University concluded that older adults who sang in a chorus for one year had fewer falls, fewer doctor visits and less loneliness than those in a control group. Choral singing, Johnson says, allows people "to use their bodies and minds while creating something beautiful." (Eleanor Gilman, author)

## SacSings! Sacramento's Choral Festival



By the time you read this newsletter, the Capitolairens will have performed during SacSings!, the second annual Sacramento Choral Festival, held at the Harris Center for Performing Arts in Folsom. Fifteen choruses consisting of 700 singers sang in three separate concerts June 13-14, 2015. The concerts featured a variety of musical genres including pop, jazz, classical, Broadway, sacred/spiritual, folk/Americana, barbershop and humorous novelty songs.

SacSings! is a project undertaken by the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition (SVCC), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting choruses and choral singing in Greater Sacramento. The SVCC's goal is to make SacSings! the preeminent annual choral event in Northern California. About a thousand music fans attended the two event. Thanks to Clark Abrahamson for representing the Capitolairens on the SVCC Board the past two years.



- June 2 *Bean Feed* (and The Some What Serious Quartet Contest) hosted by Placer/Nevada Chapter in Auburn
- June 13-14 *SacSings* at the Harris Center for Performing Arts in Folsom
- June 14 *Founder's Day* (Capitolairens chartered in 1946)
- June 28 *Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church* in Citrus Heights

***For details on specific events check the Weekly Update and Call Sheets.***

### **Editorial Comments**

The mission of the Swipes & Tags is to provide members with timely and relevant information. It is also a record of past activities and events. Newsletters will be published quarterly and include color photographs. Copies will be e-mailed to members and hard copies made available for our guests. Thanks to **Steve Cudworth**, webmaster, for recording the past newsletters on the chapter website.

Swipes & Tags deadline for the next issue is September 15. Send submissions to **Joe Samora** at [tm39samora@comcast.net](mailto:tm39samora@comcast.net), a proud member of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) since 2008.



News articles and photographs are appreciated. Thank you to **Clark Abrahamson, Mike Aita, Robert DuPlantier, Ray Rhymer, Mike Selby** and **Dave Young** for their contributions.

