



Harmo-News

*Welcome to Harmo-News,
the Newsletter of the Plainsmen.*

First up - International News.

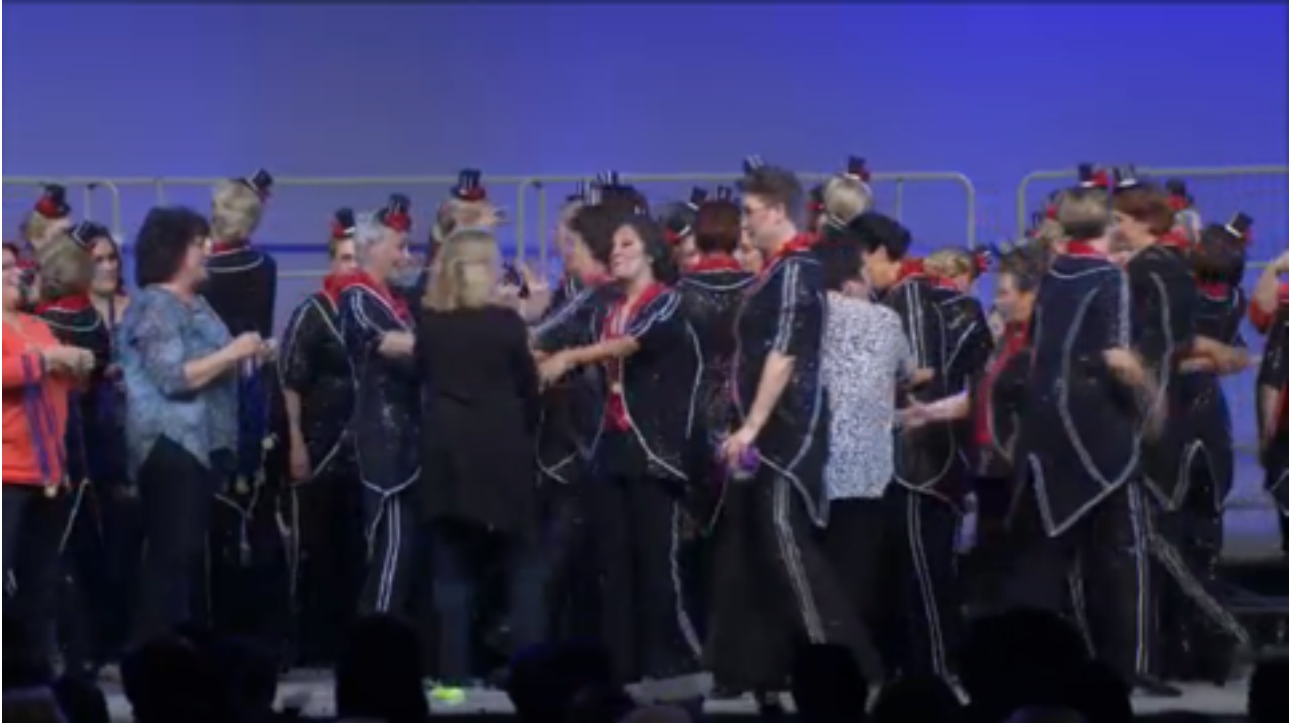
I've just come off the live web-cast from the Sweet Adelines International Convention being held this year in Las Vegas. And I have exciting news!!!!!!



Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and the Christchurch City Chorus on stage at Las Vegas.

The Christchurch City Chorus qualified in the Top 10 finalists. They achieved their goal of a top 5 placing - coming 5th with a score of 2803 (out of a possible 3200.) 86%. They WON the Most Entertaining Chorus competition !!!!!!! Congratulations to Virginia and all her members! Well Done.

First place was taken out by Ronninge Show Chorus from Sweden with a score of 3098 - 97%. What an incredible score.



Ronninge Show Chorus gathers on stage to receive their medals.

At the announcement their President paid tribute to Doug Harrington. Who's Doug Harrington, you ask?

Well, he's been one of the most influential singers, directors, coaches and mentors that Barbershop has seen. He started in a family quartet, the Harrington Brothers which broke up with two of the brothers, Doug and Dave, going on to form Second Edition - Gold medallists in 1989. They came out to NZ in 1990?

Together with a Gold Medallist Sweet Ads quartet, Growing Girls, they made a number of recordings and did many performances. Eventually two of the Growing Girls married two of the Second Edition guys. One of these was Doug.

Now married to a Swedish lady, Doug began to enter and influence the Swedish Barbershop scene, eventually coaching quartets such as Ringmasters and forming Zero8, a top 10 Barbershop chorus, out of which at least 4 winners of the Int'l Collegiate Contest have emerged. In addition he has travelled all over Europe and the British Isles coaching choruses and quartets, male, female and mixed.

All in all, a great singer and musician and a great contributor and mentor in the world of Barbershop.

Local News.

Well, our Convention is over, and what a well-run event it was. There had been some doubts that a small chorus such as Marlborough Sounds could host such an event, but, it has to be said, this was one of

the best run Conventions ever in some of the best facilities we've experienced. Congrats to Marlborough on a job well done.

And the winners were

Our good friends and past Champions, The Vocal Network, took out the Quartet contest by the narrowest of margins - tied with B Flads on 73.9 points and winning on a count back (where the quartet with the highest singing score wins) Congratulations guys.

The Plainsmen went with the goal of winning Most Improved Chorus. Which we did, but not without a fight, having to literally wrest the prize out of the hands of the Capital Harbour Chorus who had wrongly been declared the winners. All a bit embarrassing and gut-wrenching really, but, as they say, "a win's a win and we'll take it."

Our other goal was to score 65. We ended up with 64.6, which if you round it up looks like another success.

A good weekend. And weren't Forefront fabulous. Some of the



technical stuff they were doing with their voices was just unbelievable. We, that is Men Aloud, heard them live in Los Angeles two years ago and they're streets ahead of what we heard then.

A little observation. After MIB won their crown I queued up to buy their latest CD at our convention and I mentioned to Will that I thought they were singing better after their win than before it. He said that a lot of people had made similar comments.

And I wonder if the same has happened to Forefront. They're not singing for points any more - they're singing for the sheer pleasure of it and being relaxed makes that little bit of difference.

Competition.

I mentioned Ringmasters above. Name any one of them to win chocolate.

Hand your written entry to me next Monday, 31st October.

Cheers
Bryan.

