



Harmo-News

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

It's been a while since I produced the last Harmo-News. Partly that's because there hasn't been much news, but a few things have happened in the last week, so here we go.....

First up - International News.

The Int'l Mid-Winter Convention was held on the third weekend of January at San Antonio. The winner of the Senior Quartet contest was Party of Five on 75.3 points. Third was St Croix Crossing (trying saying that the French way without getting your tongue in a tangle). St Croix Crossing have been knocking on the door for a number of years. When Men Aloud went to Long Beach 3 years ago SCC were the favourites to win. They came 4th, and I recall they weren't very happy with that result. They've returned every year since but still haven't struck Gold. And they're getting older

Deke Sharon gave the address to the Convention. He may be



known to some of you but, if not, he's the person who set up The International Championship of College A Cappella and who later became more widely known through the series of films "Pitch Perfect".

Deke Sharon addresses the Mid-Winter Convention

Deke has a real passion for a cappella singing and takes every opportunity to promote, encourage and teach it. He has been awarded a Life Membership of the BHS in recognition of his services.

Because Barbershop is an a cappella form of singing Deke is interested in the cross-over between Barbershop and the wider art-form. His address focussed on where Barbershop is and where it needs to go. In short, his answer was that we need to sing with more passion, more emotion. Our audiences want us to take them on an emotional journey, they want to “feel” something, not just “hear” something when we sing. We should be able, with certain songs, to move them to tears. Perhaps we manage that already, but for the wrong reasons!

Deke noted that there are no Barbershop judging categories for “soul” or “heart”. Our judging categories are all technical, so our singing tends to be technical. It’s all about pitch and vowels and ringing chords. No “Soul”. And that’s what he wants us to develop because that’s what our audiences want to hear. We might enjoy it too!

You can hear his address on

<https://youtu.be/UufvNhiwwDg>

Local News.

And if all the above got you excited then it’s all coming our way. Jenni and I have been watching “The Naked Choir” on YouTube. It’s an English a cappella competition where the choirs are given a song to arrange, learn and perform in 3 days with help from outside experts.

I’ve noticed that the things they have to learn are the same things

Deke Sharon talked about - passion, emotion, soul. Great series of 6 one-hour programmes.

Find them at this address

<https://youtu.be/OCBVO8FnJvU>



Sons of a Pitch perform on The Naked Choir.

Now that wasn’t local news but this is. The Naked Choir is coming to NZ. You may have already seen the ad’s on TV. Hosting the show, and he will be excellent, is Jeff Hunkin, Tenor in the Musical Island Boys, and on the judging panel will be his MIB Bass, Matt Gifford and our own part-time coach, Ravil Atlas.

I'm looking forward to it. Apart from the entertainment there will be a lot of very good teaching we can all learn from.

Competition.

I said in the last HarmoNews that I'd stop obsessing about Tony de Rosa. And I will.

Today it's Instant Classic, Quartet Gold Medal winners from 2015.



I really rate their Lead, Theo Hicks. Their Bass and Bari are brothers, Kyle and Kohl Kitzmiller. Kyle is a very talented musician and is known to have written Barbershop arrangements on the back of the menu while eating in a restaurant.

The question is - what part does Kyle sing in Instant Classic - Bass or Bari?

Answers please on Mon 24th. WIN CHOCOLATE!!!!!!!

Cheers
Bryan.